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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 84

pp. 9316 - 9982

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

**CLOSED
UNTIL**

1978

61850

1A

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group ... *FO*

Class ... *371*

Piece ... *61850*

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9316/84/31

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1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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1947

E

E. 9317

PALESTINE

**Registry
Number**

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

Last Paper

9316

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

E 9352

"Pardueh" and "Houthlands"
Copy of note to Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign
Affairs 227 of Oct. 1. Asking for information
whether "Pardueh" and "Houthlands"
did embark from a Bulgarian Port.
and if a check currency were used valid.

(Minutes.)

This is rather feeble. It would have been better if the Legation had made use of Commander Longill or somebody else to keep a watch on these ships. We could then have told the Bulgarian Govt. instead of asking them.

[Handwritten signature]
C.E. O'ABLE

JB out 8/10

Southern Dept.
NOH
14/10.

1704
14/10

3

H

E 9517

1st October, 1947

1	2	3	4	5	6
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1 2 3 4 5 6

Reference: **TC**

EO 371 61850

4

2. On September 30th, however, the Legation received a message, transmitted orally by a member of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that the Bulgarian authorities felt unable to refuse to Jews "who had their papers in order". (i.e. had valid visas for a country in the neighbourhood of Palestine) the right to embark on either the "Adulah" or the "Northlands".

4. His Majesty's Legation believe that at a time when the whole Palestine question is before the Security Council His Majesty's Government are entitled to expect that, in order to avoid complicating that difficult problem still further, all nations will not only refrain from engaging, but will actively co-operate in preventing, illegal immigration into Palestine.

18.

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

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4F

1st October 1947

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371** **61850**

247 400

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 9352

28 OCT 1947

Registry
Number

E 9352/84/31.

FROM

Embassy
Paris

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

3 Oct
9 -

Embarkation of Jews from French Ports.
Copy of letter from B. G. Mironides of Sept 22.
Reporting conversation with de Bourc, Administrator
General Mironides, a large district comprises
Mediterranean coastland, who said that after
Port de Bourc affair, Jews were not going to be
allowed to get away again from these ports.

Last Paper

9317

References

16/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 Higham. C.O.
1 Peters. M.I.5
Ernested bal off
✓ Oct. 21

(Action
completed)

7 Ell 24/10

(Index)

8/48

Next Paper

9353

(Minutes.)

This is encouraging, but I have
my doubts of its practical results.

Copies to: C.O.
M.I.5
Labour Office } usual
names

Huble
(C.T. & CABLE)

9/10

15 Oct. 9

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

3rd October, 1947.

E. 9352

10 OCT 1947

*With the Compliments
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

57

1

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Reference:

FO

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61850

6

SEK/gw

22nd September, 1947.

By Bag.

You may remember meeting at Port-de-Bouc a friendly person wearing a white Admiral's uniform who put at our disposal the office of his representative. His name is de Coux, Administrateur Général de l'Inscription Maritime, and his district comprises the Mediterranean coastline.

He came to see me the other day about the forthcoming marriage of his daughter to an Englishman, and we started talking about the Jews.

He said that although the Entr'aide Française had supplied the Jews with food during their stay and the Préfecture had had a bill from Pommé, the shipping agent at Port-de-Bouc, for some 20,000 francs for launch-hire, no word of thanks had been received from the Jews. From which I gather that they are not in good odour locally.

He said also that the Jews were not going to be allowed to get away again from these parts. From which I gather that your representations in Paris have resulted in strict instructions being sent to the local authorities.

Yours ever,

(Signed) S.E. Kay.

John Coulson, Esq., C.M.G.,
British Embassy,
Paris.

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference:- **FO** 371 61850

RW
403

E

E 9376

7

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9376/84/31

J. Higham
Colonial Office

16021/47

4th Dec

8 Oct

9

Illegal Immigration, Palestine
Transmit copy of Palestine Act 1848 of 3 Oct
and copy of proposed reply for consideration,
dealing with the question of Illegal Immigrants
into Palestine, and responsibility for same.

Last Paper

9375

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

File
(TELETYPE)

7/10

JB out 9

(Action
completed)

(Index)

7 Oct 1947

9/8/48

Next Paper

E 9384

32533

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

76021/47

8th October, 1947.

SECRET

Dear John.

I enclose a copy of the High Commissioner's Top Secret and Personal telegram No. 1848. I also enclose for your early comments a copy of the reply we suggest Mr. Ivor Thomas should send. I should be grateful if you could let me know by telephone this afternoon if you have any amendments to suggest.

Yours sincerely,

*Agreed with
amendments
JB oct 8*

John Higham

(J.D. Higham)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

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INWARD TELEGRAM

E 9376

Cypher (U.T.T.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 3rd October, 1947.

R. 4th " " 06.45 hrs.

No. 1848 Top Secret and Personal.

Please pass copy to Martin. Begins.

I spoke to you before I left London regarding seriousness of the illegal immigration situation at the time, not only because of the risk of being flooded in Palestine before the arrival of the three bigger transports, but also because it seems now possible that all accommodation in Cyprus may be filled up in a short time.

2. I understand that you are doing all you can to speed up the refitting of transports and we must hope, therefore, that diplomatic approach being made to Black Sea powers may, at very least, result in a delay in the sailing of PAN CRESCENT, if not in the prevention and thus avoid first eventuality above.

3. In regard to the second eventuality, it does seem essential that our whole policy regarding illegal immigration should be again reviewed at the earliest possible date. I suggested to you, the Palestine question being now in the hands of U.N.O., that U.N.O. should take responsibility for the future policy in this matter, either by stopping it at the source or by reviewing the quota. An increase in quota might precipitate trouble with the Arabs, and, therefore, if it were possible, the first course would be the more suitable (?plan).

4. I attempted yesterday to persuade Ben Gurion to arrest the flow for the present in the interests of peace, but met the usual arguments and had no success, but as argument is based entirely on the fact that our policy is

/against

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Reference:

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61850

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9A

V

Paperback

No.

Your Top Secret and Personal

Telegram No. 1848.

Illegal Immigration.

Our future policy regarding

illegal immigration will shortly be considered by Ministers and as you will appreciate the question is

inextricably bound up with the more general issues of Palestine policy.

might be more amenable. The Turks
claim that they have no legal grounds for
~~seem to be willing to prevent or delay~~
the ~~traffic~~ ^{passage} of illegal immigrant ships
through the Straits ~~but they will not~~ ^{and are unwilling to}
do anything which would embarrass them
in their relations with Russia ^{which}
would leave them with large numbers of
Jews on their hands.

/International

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO** 371 61850

10A

"International co-operation for the prevention of immigration which is likely to disturb friendly relations between nations."

We have not yet heard UKDEL's views on probable developments from this item but the Foreign Office ~~consider there is~~ ^{for there may be} little chance of any good emerging from it or of the United Nations accepting any responsibility for preventing illegal immigration. ^{in time to meet the present emergency} Here again there is no possibility of any cooperation from Bulgaria and Roumania. I doubt too whether it would be politic to risk trouble with the Arabs by advocating at this moment any increase in the quota.

Possible expedients which may enable us to weather the storm until the end of 1947 are

- (a) To devote the whole quota of 1,500 a month to Cyprus;
- (b) Should this not suffice to mortgage the quotas several months in advance.

I realise that, on a long term view, this would be tantamount to admitting defeat but we are not able to suggest any other means of averting a crisis. I should be very grateful for your remarks on these suggestions and for any other ideas you may have.

The prospects of making accommodation elsewhere available in less than 6 months are very poor and we cannot lightly embark on large scale expenditure of men, money and materials that would be involved in the present economic state of the country. A decision will shortly be taken on this question of accommodation.

I understand that the EMPIRE RIVAL left U.K. on October 3rd, RUNNYMEDE PARK on October 5th and that OCEAN VIGOUR will leave on October 10th. I realise that even with all transports on station you will find difficulty in dealing with the simultaneous arrival of PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT - a
/possibility

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

possibility which cannot be excluded. I see however
that you have had the use of an Army L.S.T. for the
recent operation and I should be glad to know how long
you expect to be able to retain her.

SECEP.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

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284-
404

E

PALESTINE

E 9384

10 OCT

12

Registry
Number

E 9384/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

244 (S)

7 Oct

10, Oct

Illegal immigrant 11 is
2/10 found to 65 (E 9382/84/31) of which
the transport rules, covering the definition of
immigrant, have been amended. The amendment was
submitted to the Govt in accordance with
article 62 of Treaty of 1929 and to be considered
for the purpose of the Convention
of 1929. French Empire. Treaty of 1929.

Last Paper.

9376

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 7.7. P.

Oct 14

Opt. Bureau Gen.
Paris

from E. Dept

Oct. 24

Comp. Rahat
Tunis
Paris

Oct. 24

(Action
completed.)

9 11/6 2/10

(Index)

11/6 2/10

Next Paper.

9397

(Minutes.)

The questions at issue are:

- (a) Does the Safety of Life at Sea
Convention of 1929 (CNO 4198) apply
to Tunisia and other parts of the
French Empire?
- (b) Does the Convention respecting Load-lines
apply there? (CNO 4199)

Eastern Dept. would be grateful
for the comments of

Library
Treaty Dept. 17/10

Shale
(J.E. CABLE)
10/10

The conventions only apply to France &
French Indo-China - see the attached pp. &
in particular the minutes on W10331/7815/50
of 1941 regarding the Load Line Convention.

Foreign legislation dealing with these
conventions usually sent direct to the B.O.
by the countries concerned and, in cases where
the

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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12A

Letter to Turner

21/10

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1	1	2			

Reference:

FO 371 61850

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DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

9384

FILE NO. 10 OCT

R

100

r. 1947.

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References

FO 371 61850

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

~~Draft.~~ Ce.

from
Eastern Dept.

2. After to :

~~Algeria~~
Rabat
Paris
with copies of ref.

24a

24 Oct. 14

720

Dear Consulate-General,

We have been investigating the questions raised in your telegram no. 65 about the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and that concerning Load-Lines.

2. As you will see from Paris Telegram No. 244 above, of which I enclose a copy, the French authorities themselves are not very clear on this question. Our own records suggest that the conventions only apply to France and to French Indo-China, but this does not entirely agree with the information in para. 2 of Paris Telegram under reference.

under reference.

3. We suggest, therefore, that you should consult your local legal adviser on this point, as the relevant French decrees quoted in Paris Telegram no. 244 concerning may have been rendered locally applicable by Tunisian legislation.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept. *[Signature]* 2/1/10

Yours Truly,
Eastern Dept. *[Signature]* 2/10

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Reference:-

FO 371 61850

15
OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

24th October, 1947.

(E 9384/84/31)

Confidential

Dear Consulate-General,

We have been investigating the questions raised in your telegram No. 65 about the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and that concerning Load-Lines.

2. As you will see from Paris telegram No. 244 Saving, of which we enclose a copy, the French authorities themselves are not very clear on this question. Our own records suggest that the Conventions only apply to France and to French Indo-China, but this does not entirely agree with the information in paragraph 2 of Paris telegram under reference.

3. We suggest, therefore, that you should consult your local legal adviser on this point, as the relevant French decrees quoted in Paris telegram No. 244 Saving may have been rendered locally applicable by Tunisian legislation.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

British Consulate-General,
Tunis.

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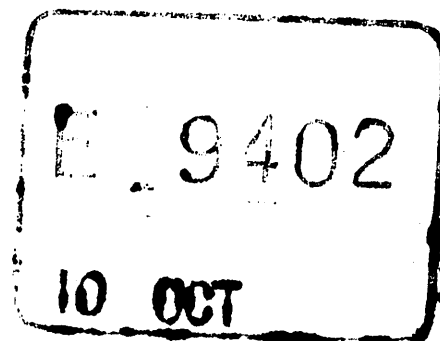
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BRITISH EMBASSY,

MADRID

6th October, 1947

With the Compliments of
CHANCERY.



Eastern Department,

Foreign Office,

S.W.1.

4

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Reference:-

FO

371

61850

275/89/47

18

COPY

BRITISH CONSULATE
Palma de Mallorca,

30th September 1947

116/1

Dear Chancery,

With regard to the question of Jewish illegal immigration, nothing suspicious occurred here during the past month.

It is true a French ship, the "Roger Juliet" put into Palma bay to shelter from the storm, on 26th, but she appeared, genuinely to have come only from Algiers and to be bound for Cette, for which port she left on 27th, without coming inside the harbour. I am informed that no suspicious craft either approached or left her while she was in the roads.

Yours ever,

(signed) Ivan Lake.

Chancery Registry,
British Embassy,
Madrid.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Group Fo

Class 371

Piece 61850

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E9423/84/31

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Reference:

FO

371

61850

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290

E

E 9431

1947

PALESTINE

20

Registry
Number

E 9431/8431.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

L. N. Dilly
9.10.47

Dated

129.

Received
in Registry9 Oct
11 -

SS. Pan York.

R/pw 4001 2106 to Rome (E 9201/8431)
Pan York entered Block Lia at 14.45 for
local time Oct. 9. Local authorities informed.

Last Paper.

9423

(Minutes.)

J. 10/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9. Pan E 9218
Oct 17(Action
completed.)

J. E. M. 1. 10/10

(Index.)

10/10/48

Next Paper.

9432

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

21

D: 4.36 p.m. 9th October 1947.

R: 6.57 p.m. 9th October, 1947.

October 1947 1

E 9201/84

0001



11/17/79

44930

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Reference:

22

61850

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291

E

E 9432

1947

PALESTINE

22

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9432/84/31

M Ward
Rome

941

2 (1941)

8 Oct

"

Illegal Immigrant Ship.
 2/10 401/2120 (E 898/84/31) Text of
 documents and Court of Appeal and Court
 of Appeal re detention of Illegal Immigrant
 Ship - Italian Port.

Last Paper.

9431

References.

7808/84/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. 9. 9. P.

Oct 14

(on E 9384/84/31)

(Minutes.)

Western Dept. (Italian Section) 16/10

J. E. Cable
 13/10

M. E. Davis
 Oct. 14

R. J.
 14/10

(Action
completed.)

7 E 10/10

(Index)

10/10/48

Next Paper.

E 9457

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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Cypher/OTP

23 E
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Ward
No. 1941.

D: 11.30 a.m. October 9th, 1947.
R: 2.00 p.m. October 9th, 1947.

October 8th, 1947.

Confidential.

Your telegram No. 2120. Jewish illegal emigration from Italy.

I took occasion of my interview with Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs today about his visit to London to mention your instruction upon which I was acting in the form of an official note to Ministry. I said I did not want to bother Minister personally with details but I felt bound to remind him of your strong personal interest in this question; of their disappointment at failure to hold Pan Crescent; and of the great importance which you attached to obtaining Italian Government's assistance in stopping this dangerous traffic. So long as Italian ports were filled with illegal ships fitting out for Palestine (even if they embarked Jews elsewhere) there was a risk of a serious incident and it would be particularly unfortunate if such arose at a time when Minister was preparing to go to London.

2. Count Sforza said I could assure you that he had done his best to hold up these ships and would continue to do so in future. In the case of the President Warfield he had personally ordered action to be taken which had in fact been illegal. His officials were working under his personal instruction to do their best to stop the use of Italy for illegal emigration to Palestine.

3. After leaving Minister I delivered to Director of Political Affairs an official note (copy by bag) based on your telegram under reference and told him of my talk with Count Sforza. Count Zoppi made usual defence [gr. omit. ?that] he thinks legal powers to hold up these ships indefensible particularly when it was clear they were not going to break Italian law by embarking Jews actually from Italy. I countered by pointing out that Jews appeared to be developing a policy of using Italy as workshop for fitting out their illegal shipping and that by countenancing this the Italian Government were lending themselves to helping traffic just as much as if Jews actually embarked from Italian shore.

4. Upshot of discussion was that Zoppi agreed that shipping position had again become dangerous and said that he would do all he could to delay these ships although he still could not see how they could be indefinitely prevented from leaving when they flew a foreign flag. (In this connexion I suggested he should explore possibility of delaying by asking Governments of countries whose flag was being used to prove bona fide registration etc.). He was obviously alive to inconvenience to Italian policy of any fresh incident during period of Count Sforza's visit to London.

5. We then got on to the question of northern frontiers and of A.J.D.C. Count Zoppi was surprised that Mr. Ruck had returned to England as he had hoped he would continue to collaborate with Italian authorities. He said he was looking for evidence which he could produce about activities of A.J.D.C. but had not yet found any sufficiently precise. (We will follow up these two points.)

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat]

---oOo---

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11/10/47 30

292

24

1947

E

E 1457

PALESTINE

13 OCT

Registry
Number

E 9457/84/31.

FROM

Darnell Wilson

No.

Algeria

Dated

110.

Received
in Registry

14 Oct

13

Retention of Illegal Immigrant Ships
R/pw 40 dispatch 80 (E 7779/84/71)
Enclosed copy of letter dated 29 from Gen.
Gen., from text of conversation with him
re retention of Illegal Immigrant Ships
at Algiers.

Last Paper

9452

References

16/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Higham 60.
Robertson 115
Eversted. 6 al. 04.
✓ 21 Oct.

(Action
completed)

G 11022/10

(Index)

10/16/48

Next Paper

91481

(Minutes.)

There is a marked contrast between
the attitude of the French authorities
in Algeria and other those in metropolitan France.

Copies to:

C.O.

M.I.S.

Cabinet Office

usual
names

Western Dept.

14/10

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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E-25

British Consulate-General,

CONFIDENTIAL.

ALGIERS.

No. 110.

E 2457

4th October, 1947.

Sir,

13 OCT

With reference to Foreign Office despatch No. 80 (E 7779/84/31) of the 2nd September, I have the honour to report that I was received in audience by Monsieur Yves Châtaigneau, Governor-General of Algeria, on the 2nd October, and conveyed to him verbally the message of appreciation of the friendly assistance lent by the local authorities in Algeria in connexion with dealing with illegal immigration to Palestine. At the same time I took the opportunity of thanking him for the very full instructions which he had already given, conveyed to me in a letter dated the 29th September, copy of which is transmitted herewith, to prevent any embarkation of clandestine passengers and to refuse any supplies of oil fuel had the "Pan York" turned up in any Algerian port, which happened not to be the case.

2. In a general talk upon the situation, His Excellency informed me that he would take it upon himself to refuse any facilities to such illegal ships if they arrived without passengers, and would not have to inform Paris until after the event, but that it would be difficult to detain them although their intentions were obvious. I explained to him the various methods which could be used to detain suspect ships as set forth in the enclosure to your despatch under reference, and the Governor-General agreed that, should any such ship arrive with illegal passengers on board, he would employ administrative pretexts to delay such a vessel, but that he must in that case consult Paris in view of the wide implications of detaining a ship of a friendly power.

3. He mentioned that he had recently requested General Juin, the Resident Governor of Morocco, to get his people to withhold travel facilities from parties of Jews leaving Morocco for Algeria in hopes of getting away from here to Palestine. He had also taken the opportunity of pointing out to local Jewish notables that he expected them to maintain a "correct attitude" as regards abstaining from organising collecting centres in Algeria for Jews from Morocco or Tunisia, and helping to get them away to ships clandestinely by fishing boats or otherwise. He appears to have warned them that any such action on their part would meet with strong disapproval from the Government-General itself and that he could not promise to shield them from Moslem indignation if they implicated themselves in such matters. In reply he was informed that there was little or no genuine movement amongst the local Algerian Jews to get away to Palestine as they were on the whole satisfied with their lot in Algeria. The arrival of parties of Jews from Morocco was, in fact, most unwelcome to the local Jewish community, as the formers' stay in Algeria had proved to be far more prolonged than had ever been anticipated, with the result that in nearly all cases they ran short of funds and had to be kept and fed in the end from the resources of local Jewish organisations. In addition to this, in a good number of

cases/

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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cases, as, for example, when the Jewish "recreation" camp at Tenes was closed down by the Algerian authorities (see my despatches No. 64 of the 30th May and No. 74 of 17th June, 1947) disappointed Jews who had come into Algeria to await transportation to Palestine had to be helped financially to return to their homes in Morocco or Tunis.

4. The fairly straight west to east coastline of Algeria with its sandy beaches and numerous small harbours is difficult to watch with the number of coastguards available, and lends itself to a ship steaming offshore along the coast and putting into any pre-arranged bay to embark passengers (as was possibly the case when the S.S. "Anal" put into Dellys harbour for one hour on the 10th May) or being met by fishing boats outside the three-mile limit (as may possibly have happened in connexion with the "Luciano" on the 15th July on the same part of the coast near Dellys). In view of a rumour, now being investigated by the Government-General, that a further Jewish collecting-centre is about to be established in the neighbourhood of Bougie, the Governor-General has given specially strict instructions for a sharp watch to be kept around Dellys and along the coast between that port and the vicinity of Bougie.

5. Copies of this despatch with its enclosure are being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, and His Majesty's Consuls-General at Rabat and Tunis.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Darnall L. L. L.

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

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27

COPY.

CABINET
DU
GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL
DE L'ALGÉRIE.

Alger le 29th Septembre 1947

Monsieur le Consul Général,

Vous avez bien voulu appeler mon attention sur le passage en Méditerranée du vapeur Panaméen "Pan York", qui vous a été signalé comme devant relacher dans les ports d'Oran et de Philippeville.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que j'ai immédiatement confirmé aux services intéressés les instructions déjà données pour éviter l'embarquement de passagers clandestins et refuser à ce vapeur illégal tout approvisionnement éventuel en mazout.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Consul Général, les assurances de ma considération la plus distinguée.

l'Ambassadeur de France
Gouverneur Général de l'Algérie.

Yves Chataigneau.

Monsieur DARRELL WILSON
Consul Général de
Sa Majesté Britannique

ALGER.

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E

E 28

1947

PALESTINE

13 OCT

Registry Number E9481/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Bucharest.

Dated 11 Oct.

Received in Registry 13


Illegal Immigration.

Ref 150 tel 1089 (E. 7201/84/31)
 Reports arrival of Pan York at Constanza.
 Believes passengers for Pan Cescant
 embarked there. Pressure is being brought to
 bear on Ministry of Interior to prevent
 embarkation of immigrants on these ships
 in Romania.

Last Paper.

9487

(Minutes.)



References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11. P. Oct 14
 (on E9354/84/31)

(Action completed.)



(Index.)



Next Paper.

9485

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

E

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Holman.

D. 12.18 p.m. 11th October 1947.

No. 1137.

11th October 1947. R. 2.10 p.m. 11th October 1947. 29
Repeated Moscow, Jerusalem, Middle East Cairo, Sofia,
Angora, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram 1089.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

Pan York arrived Constantza today. About 3,000
bunks are to be built at that port and the work starts
on Monday October 13th.

2. There is reason to believe that passengers
for both Pan Crescent and Pan York [grp. undec.]
embarked at Constantza.

3. An official of the Roumanian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs told a member of my staff yesterday
that it was bringing all possible pressure to bear on
the Ministry of the Interior to prevent embarkation
of immigrants on these ships in Roumania. This
tends to confirm reports that immigrants will now
embark outside Roumania.

Foreign Office repeat Jerusalem, Middle East Office
Cairo, ~~Cairo~~, Angora and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.
Malta as my telegrams 56, 19, 34 and 8.

[Repeated to British Middle East Office, Cairo
and Angora. Copies sent to telegram section Colonial
Office and War Registry Admiralty for repetition to
Jerusalem and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean].

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Reference:-

FO 371

61850

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IN

30

To Foreign Office.

Date 11.10.47.
Received 1410

CYPHER O.T.P.

From Bucharest.

Departmental No.1.

Mr. Holman
No. 1137.

Repeated Moscow, Jerusalem, Middle East Cairo, Sofia,
Angora, Commander in Chief Mediterranean Malta.

IMPORTANT. CONFIDENTIAL.

your telegram 1089.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

PAN YORK arrived Constantza today. About 3,000 bunks are to be built at that port and the work starts on Monday October 13th.

2. There is reason to believe that passengers for both PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK (grp.undec.) embarked at Constantza.

3. An official of the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told a member of my staff yesterday that it was bringing all possible pressure to bear on the Ministry of the Interior to prevent embarkation of immigrants on these ships in Roumania. This tends to confirm reports that immigrants will now embark outside Roumania.

Foreign Office repeat Jerusalem, Middle East Office Cairo, Cairo, Ankara and Commander in Chief Mediterranean Malta as my telegrams 56, 19, 34 and 8.

(Repeated to British Middle East Office, Cairo and Angora. Copies sent to telegram section Colonial Office and War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Jerusalem and Commander in Chief Mediterranean).

NO T.O.O./11

passing action being taken by War Reg.
to C. in C.Med.

Advance copies sent D.C., R.C.

1st. Lord.
1st. S. L. (3)
V. C. N. S.
A. C. N. S.
Naval Secretary
Secretary
U. S. S.

O.D. (3)
D.C. (2)
M. (1)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (2)
C.N.I. (2)

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 Reference: **FO** 371 61850
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294

E

E 9485

1947

PALESTINE

13 OCT

31

Registry
Number

E 9485/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

The Sturndale Bennett

No.

Sofia

Dated

11 Oct.

Received
in Registry

13 Oct.

Illegal Immigration.

Addressed to Jerusalem 32.

Ref Sofia tel 1244/E 9485/84/31.

Requests information as to arrival
of Padueah & Northlands in Palestinian
status, number of immigrants, & kind
of travel documents they possessed.

Last Paper.

9485

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.R.P.

Oct. 14

(on E 9384/84/31)

9) Bucharest

Oct

Nov 4

No. 482.

(Action
completed.)

J.C.M. 4/11

(Index)

10/8/48

Next Paper.

E 9537

B.V. 16/10

G.P.P. Postal tel 1916 13/10

Southern Dept.

Bucharest appears to be a
center of Zionist activity and
I wonder whether it would
be possible for him to return if
Jerusalem's tel. within to be
reported up to our Legation
there.

J.C. (ann pub.)
24/10.

Copy of Palestine tel. no. 1916
under r/n to Bucharest.

23/10

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Reference:

FO 371

61850

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E

32

Mr. Sterndale Bennett.

No. 32

D. 5.08 p.m. 11th October, 1947

11th October, 1947

R. 7.40 p.m. 11th October, 1947

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 1282 and
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

E 0485

9/15/84

My telegram to Foreign Office No.124413 OCT

For use in further representations to Bulgarian
Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I should welcome information
as to

(a) date of arrival of "Paducah" and "Northlands" in Palestinian waters.

(b) Approximate number of illegal immigrants on board.

(c) Kind of travel documents which immigrants carried
i.e. for what country if any did they have visas?

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No.32 and to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegram No.5.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for Jerusalem and to Admiralty for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean].

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Reference:-

FO 371 61850



INWARD TELEGRAM

E 9485/84/31

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

15 OCT 1947

Cypher

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 13th October, 1947.

R. 13th

23.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1916 Secret.

Addressed to H.M. Ambassador at Sofia,
No. 1396.

Repeated to C.-in-C. Mediterranean, No. 1395.
S. of S.

Your telegram No. 2447 repeated to Foreign
Office No. 1282.

(a) Both PADUCAH and NORTHLAND entered Palestine
waters on 2nd October, 1947.

(b) PADUCAH carried 1,385 illegal Jewish immigrants,
and NORTHLAND carried 2,664.

(c) (Your telegram No. 2294) none of immigrants
in PADUCAH could produce a passport valid for Palestine.
Persons interrogated explained that they had travelled
from Bulgaria on a collective visa. A large number of
immigrants was in possession of identity cards issued by
Bucharest Office Association of Trans-Istrian Deportees.
Further examination of the many documents recovered
from the vessel continues. Immigrants were mainly of
Rumanian and Hungarian origin, with some Poles, Czechs
and Austrians, and it appears from questioning that the
main marshalling centre was Bucharest, whence they
travelled by train to Burgas; it was said that Bulgarian
police were present during embarkation at Burgas to
PADUCAH.

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Reference:

FO

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61850

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33A

2. Majority of (corrupt group) passengers in the NORTHLAND were from Roumania but she also carried a number of Germans, Poles and Czechs. A log book recovered from the vessel showed that she loaded 2,500 persons at Burgas on 2nd September - 23rd September. On the latter date she sailed to a point $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off Varna, where she appeared to remain for (?two x) hours on 26th September. Subsequently the NORTHLAND pursued an easterly and southerly course until 27th September, when she reached the Bosphorus. Log also indicates that she had left Burgas ostensibly bound for Havana, Cuba. Although it was not found possible to confirm by interrogation on the quayside at Haifa that the majority of the passengers embarked at Burgas, a number of immigrants did state that they proceeded from Bucharest by train to Varna, where they embarked. It is possible, therefore, that a few immigrants were taken on board at Varna, whilst the vessel lay off that port on 26th September. No (repeat no) passenger could produce a passport valid for Palestine and, as in the case of the PADUCAH, they indicated that they had travelled on a collective visa. Many of the NORTHLAND immigrants were in possession of identity cards issued by Bucharest Offices, either of the Trans-Istrian Committee for Deportees and Refugee Jews or Deportees Association of Trans-Istria.

x corrupt group - alternative 11.

/Copies

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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34

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Copies sent to:-

No. 10 Downing Street	- P.S. to Prime Minister
Lord President	- Private Secretary
Admiralty	- Private Secretary
"	- First Sea Lord
"	- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds
War Office	- Private Secretary
"	- C.I.G.S.
"	- Lt.Col. H.M. Charteris
" (M.O.L.)	- Lt.Col. D.W. Price
" (M.I.3)	- Mr. T.A. Robertson
M.I.5	- Private Secretary
Air Ministry	- Chief of Air Staff
"	- Sir N. Brock
Cabinet Offices	- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
"	- Commander Evershed
"	- Private Secretary
Foreign Office	- Mr. G.W. Baxter
"	- Mr. Beith
"	(Information
"	Policy Dept.) - Mr. Kennie
"	(Research
"	Dept.)
Ministry of Defence	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss
"	- Private Secretary
"	- Sir Henry Wilson Smith
"	- Defence Registry
Ministry of Transport	- Mr. W. Graham

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Reference: **FO** 371 61850

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

E 36
BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

8th October 1947

Ref: G124/-/47

CONFIDENTIAL

E 3537

14 OCT

Dear Department,

We enclose herein a copy of a letter from McClelland in Philadelphia to Bromley about a ship called the S.S. ROSSIA, in case there may be later developments as regards illegal immigration into Palestine. We will pass on to you any further information which we receive about this ship.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Sc

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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C O P Y

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL
PHILADELPHIA

6th October 1947

No. 238

Dear Bromley,

Mr. George Reese, the passenger agent of Moore-McCormack Lines, Inc. here telephoned me this morning and made some enquiries about visas for Palestine.

He said that s.s. "Rossia", a Russian vessel, will sail from Naples on or about the 9th October for New York, where she is due to arrive on or about the 18th. The "Rossia" (formerly Hamburg-America liner "Patria") is a 16,600 ton ship with normal passenger accommodation for 400.

Mr. Reese told me that this ship will sail from New York, where the passengers will embark, towards the end of this month for Marseilles, Naples and Haifa. He thinks that she will be pretty well booked up, and added that enquiries had been received from prospective passengers who wished to go to Palestine. I told Reese that all travellers to Palestine must have a visa. This could be granted by any Consulate in the United States, or by the Passport Control Officer in New York, but only if expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Immigration at Jerusalem.

Reese seems to have grounds for believing that among the passengers there will be a certain number of Jewish would-be immigrants into Palestine. I pointed out that it was very unlikely that they would be granted visas as I understood that most of the Jews who are now being admitted into the Holy Land came from the detention camps in Cyprus. In any case, as applicants for visas are now required to apply direct to the Commissioner of Immigration in Jerusalem, it was unlikely that the necessary authority to grant the visa would come through in time.

Moore-McCormack Lines, Inc. are the Philadelphia agents for Amtorg.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Consulate-General in New York and to the Passport Control Officer there.

Yours ever,

H.C. McCLELLAND

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276

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 9565

36

14 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9565/84/31

H. H. H. H. H.

Bucharest

1, 147

13 Oct

14 -

"Pan" (Bucharest) "Pan" York
 Refer Bucharest tel 1137 (E 9451/84/31)
 "Pan" (Bucharest) has moved to new address
 Constanta, where she is still guarded and
 unapproachable. "Pan" York arrived
 Constanta, Oct 11. She is also guarded in
 new address since "Pan" (Bucharest).

Last Paper.

9537

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 9, P. (on E 9571)
 Oct 21

(Action
completed.)

L. H. H. H. H.

(Index)

10/8/48

Next Paper.

E 9571

(Minutes.)

14/10

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 Reference: FO 371 / 61850

CYPHER/OTP

ADMIRALTY

39

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman.

No. 1.147.

D: 5.29 p.m. 13th October, 1947.

13th October, 1947. R: 7.23 p.m. 13th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Istanbul (Constantinople).

IMPORTANT

SECRET

E 9565

14 OCT

Following for Admiralty D.N.I. repeated to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, S.O.(1) L.E.M. and S.O. (1) Istanbul from Naval Attaché.

Your 111113 A, not to S.O.(1) Istanbul, and Bucharest telegram No. 1141 to Foreign Office for Admiralty repeated S.O.(1) Istanbul, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Commander-in-Chief Middle East.

Pan Crescent has now moved to new oiling basin, Constantza, where she is still well guarded and unapproachable.

2. Pan York arrived at Constantza on October 11th and is also berthed in new oiling basin close to Pan Crescent.
3. Bucharest telegram No. 1137 refers.
4. Sofia are being kept informed of details you [grp.undec. ? issue] in case one or both ships move to Bulgaria, and has been requested to signal important to Admiralty repeated to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and S.O.(1) Istanbul any information they can obtain for either ship.
5. I assume that you see all Bucharest telegrams to Foreign Office concerning illegal immigration and that it is unnecessary for me to repeat information contained in them specifically to Admiralty.
6. Admiralty please pass to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and S.O.(1) L.E.M.

Foreign Office please pass to Istanbul as my telegram No. 20.

[Repeated to Istanbul].

@@@



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FO 371 / 61850

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E 9571

40

1947

PALESTINE

15 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E9201/84/51

Mr. G. H. G. G. -
Bennett

12/10

12814
11/10
15/10

IS 'PALESTINE'
 Ref. to. 11/15/44 (E9201/84/51) 7/10/44
 regarding 10/10/44 with 10/10/44 & 10/10/44
 10/10/44 & 10/10/44 10/10/44 on 10/10/44
 10/10/44 10/10/44 10/10/44 10/10/44
 morning 11/10/44

Last Paper.

9565

References.

(Minutes.)

15/10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 10
 10/10/44 21

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

G. E. H. G. 10/10/44

10/10/44

Next Paper.

9577

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett
No. 1284

D. 7.17 p.m. 13th October 1947
R. 8.44 p.m. 13th October 1947

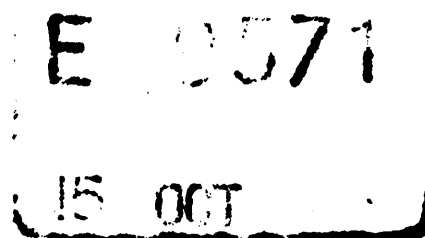
11th October 1947

Repeated to Angora
Bucharest

Your telegrams Nos. 1351 and 1384.

Note ~~verbale~~ requesting Bulgarian authorities to
refuse facilities to prevent embarkation on the
"Pan York" was delivered to Ministry of Foreign Affairs
this morning.

ccc



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E 9577

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1947

PALESTINE

15 OCT

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9577/84/31

G.P. Rodds

Admiralty

M 25961/41

6.11.47

11.10.47

15

Enquiry for illegal immigrant transport through
the Black Sea.

Keeps of staff, and Admiralty papers
on subject of transport carrying
illegal immigrants going into Black Sea
without naval escort. Admiralty now
recommend that this should be allowed

Last Paper

9577

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Plan returned to
Mr. Rennie, R/T,
with Mr. Cable's copy.

Nov. 4

Sgt. G.B. Rodds

Admty
from Mr. Cable.

Camp. Rennie R/T.

(Encs)

Nov 13

(Action
completed)

J.C.M. 13/11

(Indt)

10/5/48

Next Paper

(Minutes.)

The question at issue is whether
or not one of the ex-comettes now
used for transporting Jewish illegal
immigrants between Haifa and Cyprus
could be sent through the Straits
as a merchant ship. From the purely
practical point of view, these vessels
would undoubtedly appear to be
merchant ships, but their external
appearance is inevitably reminiscent of
a warship. In the unlikely event
of such a ship being used to
escort ships containing Jews
"refoules" to the Black Sea, the
would probably also carry troops.

The idea of refoulement
to the Black Sea is no longer
contemplated, but the Admiralty are
anxious to settle this point now.
Eastern Dept would, therefore, be
grateful for the comments of Mr.

32538

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Mr. Hughes

South Dept.

43
J. H. Hughes
15/10

My opinion is that whether a vessel is a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Donbass Convention ~~must~~ depends on her status rather than on her design. Therefore, ~~if~~ even though she has the appearance of a naval vessel and certain characteristics of a naval vessel such as armour plating and torpedo tubes, as these corvettes appear to have, yet if she has not been commissioned as a naval vessel and is not employed as one but has always been used as a merchant vessel and sailed under the red ensign, she is not a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Convention.

However as Admiralty mention we have in the past had trouble with the Turkish Government I think concerning German vessels which during the war passed through the Straits masquerading as merchant vessels whereas, so we maintained, they were really vessels of war, and in order to make sure that we are being consistent I think the relevant papers should be looked up. I believe that our contention in respect of the German ships was that they were in fact intended to be used as vessels of war.

It would of course be best if for the purpose of examining the German vessels other than the corvettes could be made available about whose character there could be no question or argument.

W. J. Evans (W. J. EVANS)
20/10

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1944

43A

R 9286 / 3830 / 44

R 9297

R 9301

R 9460

R 9574

R 9636

R 10051

R 9637

R 9760

R 9868

~~R 9444~~

R 9575

R 9905

R 10541 / 789 / 44

R 9573 / 7 / 44

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No.
and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
compliments to
and, by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith cop of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

, 19 .

44

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

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Southern Dept agree with the legal views expressed above, particularly that we are on weak legal grounds in view of the German E. ships; but at the same time we think it worth pointing out, from the strictly political point of view, we are on much better grounds since the Turks are disposed to help us over the Jewish question, while in 1944 they were inclined to help the Germans by sketching a point. In the circumstances, I would suggest consulting the Turkish Govt quite frankly.

E. P. C.

20/10.

Could Library please produce the 1944 papers requested by Mr. Evans?

Library

J. E. Cable
(J. E. CABLE)

23/10

Encl. P. Peters to 1858 4/10.

Mr. Evans again

I think it is worth

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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the status of a warship or
auxiliary. It was this that
he was really telling the
Turks in 1914. But it is
not conclusive, or the
^{there it exists} presumption can be rebutted
by showing that the vessel is
employed as a merchant ship,
that she is not on the strength
of the navy, that her crew are
not in the navy or under
naval discipline etc.

G. H. Linnemann

Draft to Mr. Dodds
accordingly.

Mr. Fitzmaurice
Southern Dept.

} again

PP. should be marked on the
again in fact unless
further minutes
are desired. It is
sufficient to mark the

J. E. Caber
(J. E. CABER)
5/11

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

Military Branch,
Admiralty,
S.W.1.

E 9577

11th October, 1947

15 OCT

M.059606/46

My dear Beith,

You will remember that at the meeting of the Illegal Immigration Committee on the 24th September it was decided that the opinion of the Chiefs of Staff should be obtained on the question of transports carrying illegal immigrants going into the Black Sea without naval escort. The Chiefs of Staff duly asked the Admiralty to prepare a memorandum on this subject which we have now done. Our recommendation is that this should be allowed.

If this proposal were to be put into operation it would, as we have pointed out in our memorandum, be necessary to send some form of rescue ship with the merchant ships carrying the illegal immigrants. The obvious choice would be one of the ex-corvettes used on the Haifa-Cyprus route. There has been trouble in the past about ships masquerading as merchant ships, but being, in fact, warships, going through the Straits and we had considerable trouble about certain German landing craft during the war. The silhouette of these ships is similar to that of this class fitted as corvettes except for armament and the addition of davits and ships life-boats.

On the other hand, although these vessels were laid down as corvettes and have corvette hulls, they were never completed as warships. Moreover, they have, from the beginning of their life, only been used by the Ministry of Transport under the red ensign.

We therefore consider that the passage of such ships through the Straits without notification

/would

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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Reference:

FO 371

61850

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46A

RECEIVED	14 OCT 1944	3
SENT TO DEPT.		
TDO		

would not be contrary to the Montreux Convention. We should, however, like to know the views of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport on this point. It is true that recent papers have shown further refoulement to be unlikely; nevertheless one never knows when the question may arise again and we should not like it to surprise us.

I enclose a photograph of the EMPIRE LIFEGUARD and the general arrangement plan for the EMPIRE REST which may help you in considering this question. Would you return them in due course to Rennie to whom I am sending a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

G. B. Douds

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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Registry
No. E. 9577/84/31

~~Top Secret~~
Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
Restricted.
~~Open.~~

Draft. G. C. B.
Mr. Dodds,
Admiralty.

J.E.
(From: Mr.Cable)

Mr. FitzMarrice
(First)

Southern Dep.
RHS 10/21

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copy to:
Mr. Rennie,
Ministry of
Transport.



~~5~~th November, 1947

Dear Dods,

In your letter to Beith No.

M.05906/46 of 11th October about the ~~question~~
~~of~~ refoulement of Jewish illegal immigrants
from the Black Sea countries, you asked for
our views on the legality of employing an
ex-Corvette to escort transports ^{carrying} ~~of~~ such
Jews through the Straits.

2. We are advised that, from the legal point of view, whether a vessel is a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Montreux Convention depends on her status rather than on her design. Therefore, even though she may have the appearance of a naval vessel and ^{such} ~~certain~~ characteristics of a naval vessel, [^] ~~such~~ as armoured plating and torpedo tubes (as these Corvettes appear to have) yet, if she has not been commissioned as a naval vessel and is not employed as one but has always been used as a merchant vessel under the Red Ensign, she is not a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Convention.

3. When making representations to the Turkish Government in 1944 about German naval vessels, we argued not merely that the ships were in fact fitted as warships or naval auxiliaries but also that the Germans habitually used them, and undoubtedly intended to use them in the Aegean and the Mediterranean, as such. The fact that the vessels' construction is similar to or identical with that of a warship is merely a strong pointer to her probable use. In time of war or in

/other

1	2	3	4	5	6	
		1			2	

Reference:

FO 371 61850

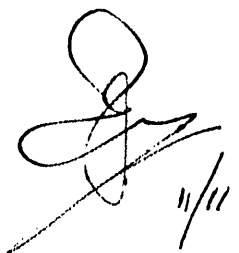
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47A

other special circumstances such similarity of construction may raise a strong presumption that the vessel is used as, and has the status of, a warship or auxiliary. This presumption is not conclusive, however, and can be ^{rebutted} ~~rebutted~~ by showing that the vessel is registered as a merchant ship, that she is not on the strength of the Royal Navy and that her officers and crew are neither in the navy nor subject to naval discipline.

4. On political, as distinct from legal, grounds our case is even stronger. The Turkish Government are now disposed to help us to combat Jewish illegal immigration (where they can do it without prejudice to their own interests); while in 1944 they were inclined to stretch the legal point in favour of the Germans.

5. In actual fact, of course, it seems most improbable that we should ever wish to undertake the refoulement of Jewish illegal immigrants to the Black Sea, since neither the Bulgarian nor the Roumanian Government are likely to agree to receive them, and this particular problem will not, therefore, arise. I am sending a copy of this letter to Rennie at the Ministry of Transport, together with the ship's photograph. Her plan has already been returned to him.



Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J.E. Cable

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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OUT FILE

48

(E 9577/84/31)

RESTRICTED.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

13th November, 1947.

Dear Dodds,

1. In your letter to Belth No. B 05906/46 of 11th October about the refoulement of Jewish illegal immigrants from the Black Sea countries, you asked for our views on the legality of employing an ex-Corvette to escort transports carrying such Jews through the Straits.

2. We are advised that, from the legal point of view, whether a vessel is a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Montreux Convention depends on her status rather than on her design. Therefore, even though she may have the appearance of a naval vessel and such characteristics of a naval vessel as armoured plating and torpedo tubes (as these Corvettes appear to have) yet, if she has not been commissioned as a naval vessel and is not employed as one but has always been used as a merchant vessel under the Red Ensign, she is not a "vessel of war" for the purposes of the Convention.

3. When making representations to the Turkish Government in 1944 about German naval vessels, we argued not merely that the ships were in fact fitted as warships or naval auxiliaries but also

/that

G.C.B. Dodds, Esq.,
Admiralty.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

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49

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO 371 61850**

(Sgd.) (J. E. Calbo)

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INWARD TELEGRAM

50 15
mw

This document must be paraphrased the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.
Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 4th October, 1947.

R. 4th " " 22.40 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1358 Top Secret.

Addressed to S. of S. (please pass to Moscow as No. 1353).

Repeated to Sofia, No. 1354.

" " Bucharest, No. 1355.

" " Ankara, No. 10.

" " C.-in-C. Mediterranean, No. 1357.

" " Navy Office M.E.L.F. No. 1358 (please pass to P.S.T.O. as my No. 1356).

Further to your telegram No. 2276.

Illegal Immigration.

P.S.T.O. has signalled to COMPAL 301635 B. as follows. Begins.

2. As fitted corvettes are Merchant Service manned, officers and crews may object to undertaking proposed duties which they cannot be compelled to carry out as Royal Navy personnel under Naval discipline. Officers of these vessels are already restive at present employment and although proposed duties might provide new interest it is uncertain how long this would be maintained.

3. Ships' endurance at sea limited by bunkers to 12 (repeat 12) days owing to stability.

/4.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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4. For other ships' details if required P.S.T.O. Haifa should be consulted.

5. Unreliability of furnaces and boilers necessitates frequent small repairs.

6. If their use is agreed after considering question of legality and policy I consider that they must (repeat must) have

(a) Naval Liaison Officer experienced in this type of work to implement procedure and instructions.

(b) Naval Cypher Officer for signals and confidential books.

(c) 2 (repeat 2) Radio Officers to maintain continuous watch.

(d) Retention of military guards for permanent anti-sabotage work in the Black Sea.

(e) Some means of self defence against surprise attacks. Ends.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to Moscow).

Distributed to: -/

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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INWARD TELEGRAM

51

Distributed to:-

R.243
 Secretary of State
 Sir T. Lloyd
 Mr. I. Thomas
 Sir S. Caine
 Sir C. Jeffries
 Mr. Holding
 Foreign Office
 Admiralty
 " "
 War Office
 " " (M.O.4.)
 Ministry of Transport
 " " "
 Cabinet Offices
 M.I.5.

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-

Mr. Martin
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. Gutch
 Mr. Mathieson
 Mr. Higham
 Mr. Galsworthy
 Mr. Fitzgerald
 Mr. Beith.
 Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
 Captain Maunsell.
 Brigadier Dove.
 Lt.Col. M.M. Charteris.
 Mr. Rennie.
 Mr. Graham.
 Commander Evershed.
 Mr. T.A. Robertson.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

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249

52

E

1947

PALESTINE

E 9578

15 OCT

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E9578/84/31

Chamery
Washington

9/24/-/47.

8,000
15-

M.M.P. 'ANGUILLA'

Refer 4.06/10246 (E9227/84/31). Have no
reason to suspect conversion of Morav. M.
gray with the his ship. Question
was originally brought up by State Dept.
and thought 'Anguilla' might be sort of
ship to be used for illegal immigration.
Have informed State Dept that F.O. have
no objection to sale

Last Paper

95-77

References

21/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, 1 idigham 00
Robertson 00
Oct. 23

(Action
completed)

J.E.M. 23/10

(Index)

10/14/48

Next Paper

95-79

(Minuted)

copies to: C.O.
M.I.S. } usual
names

15/10

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61850

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**Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.**

1947

E

E 9579

15 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9579/84/31

Athens

Athens

26/367/47

3,000

15 -

'AGHIOS ELEFTHERIOS'

My Foreign Affairs report, 'Aghios Eleftherios' registered at Piraeus, sailed from Satalon on Sept 23 bound for Beyrouth with cargo of starch from Thera. They add that manage of vessel (20.64 Gross) and nature of her cargo and destination give rise to suspicion of illegal immigrant traffic.

Last Paper

9578

References

21/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, 10/10/47
Robertson 1415
Oct 23

(Action
completed)

J.E.M. 21/10

(Index)

J.E.M. 21/10

Next Paper

9580

(Minutes)

Copies to: C.O. } usual
M.I.5 } names

J.E.M. 15/10

B.V. 21/10

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

ATHENS

46/367/47

3rd October 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

E 9579

15 OCT

Dear Department,

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs have passed on to us a report that the motor caique Aghios Eleftherios, Captain A. Vernikos, 20.67 tons gross and 11.95 net, powered by a 32 h.p. "Alexos" engine, and registered at Piraeus, sailed from Santorin on the 23rd September bound for Beyrouth with a cargo of earth from Thera.

The Ministry add that the tonnage of this vessel and the nature of her cargo and destination give rise to the suspicion that she is or will be engaged in the traffic in Jewish illegal immigrants.

We have no knowledge of the Aghios Eleftherios but will endeavour to keep an eye on her. Meanwhile we pass on this report for what it is worth.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

Eastern Department,
The Foreign Office,
S. W. 1.

55

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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51

56

E

E 9580

1947

15 OCT

PALESTINE

**Registry
Number**

FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

E 9580/84/J1

Barrett General

Marcellus

10. Pdf

15.0 ef

Weekly report on suspect shipping.

transmit report of activities of Manneville
and other ports in connection selected
for W/E 9 Oct

Last Paper

91-79

References

21/10.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, letters. ~~11.15~~
Oct-23

(Action completed)

(Index)

2
P. C. B. 11/8/48

19/8/48

Next Paper

E 96 ²⁹ ~~002~~

(Minutes.)

copy to M.I.S. (Mr. Lehen)

15/10

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

References:

FO 371 61850

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British Consulate-General,
Marseilles.

10th October, 1947.

E 9580

15 OCT

With the compliments

of

H.M. Consul-General.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:

FO 371

61850

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58

British Consulate-General,
Marseilles.

10th October, 1947.

FGKG/gw
Secret S1.

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week-ended 9th October, 1947 :-

- "ALBERTINA" - No change.
- "ARKANGELOS" - No change.
- "PAN YORK" - Left Marseilles on 3rd October nominally for Sfax with 148 tons of provisions of American origin. No passengers on board. Refuelled here.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles..

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Paris.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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53

303 (last 301)

1947

E

PALESTINE

59

E 9629

16 OCT

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9629/84/31

Embassy

Rome

14/11

8 Oct

16 -

'PAN CRESCENT'

Refer Rome tel 1865 (E 981/84/31) transmits
copy of note to the Italian Foreign Office dated
5 Oct expressing Italian disappointment
at release of the 'Pan Crescent' and
request for support ships in Italian ports
arguing receipt action to prevent departure
of same.

Last Paper

9580

~~9602~~

References

(Minutes.)

Western Dept (Italian Section)
22/10

16/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

9622/10

(Index)

10/11/48

Next Paper

9630

32538

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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No. 441

325/248/47)

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, 8th October, 1947.

E 9629

Reference to previous despatch :

16 OCT

From Foreign Office:
To Foreign Office:

Rome Tel. 1835 ? wrong ref.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Aide Memoire handed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 8/10/47.	Jewish illegal emigration from Italy.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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AIDE MEMOIRE

The British Embassy in their Aide Memoire No. 325/216/47 of 27th August had the honour to draw the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the very strong suspicion that the steamship "Pan Crescent" flying the Panamanian flag in the Port of Venice was destined to embark Jewish immigrants for illegal entry into Palestine. The attention of the Ministry was again called to this ship in an Aide-Memoire No. 325/233/47 of 19th September and in conversation.

2. As the result of these representations the Italian authorities did subject the departure of the ship to a few days delay. However, on the 25th September, the Director of Political Affairs informed the British Chargé d'Affaires that the Italian authorities had not considered it possible to continue to delay the ship and had allowed her to leave.

3. Mr. Ward has now been instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to express Mr. Bevin's disappointment at the failure of the Italian authorities to hold up the "Pan Crescent" and to emphasise the great importance which the British Government attach to the Italian Government's assistance in preventing illegal immigration into Palestine during this critical period of British responsibility in Palestine pending the settlement of the future of that country by the United Nations.

4. Mr. Ward has also been instructed formally to draw the attention of the Italian Government to the presence in Italian ports of no less than eight ships strongly suspected of intending to embark illegal Jewish immigrants. These ships (particulars of which with the exception of the "Malvagia" are contained in the list of suspect shipping forwarded to the Ministry in the Embassy's note No. 389/47/47 of 2nd October) are the following:

ONIRINA MADRE) at Sestri Levante
YILDERGAL) at La Spezia
ROWDINE)
VIOLETTE)
GIOVANNI MARIA)
MALVAGIA)
SARINA) at Genoa
SAN LEONARDO)

His Majesty's Government urge the Italian Government to take prompt and effective action to prevent the departure of these vessels. They cannot believe that the Italian authorities do not possess the necessary powers for this purpose, having regard to the great harm caused to international relations by this illegal traffic.

ROME.

7th October, 1947.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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209

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E 9630

16 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E9630/84/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Rome

Dated

14.10.48

Received
in Registry

9 Oct
16 -

Jewish Illegal Emigration from Italy.
Transmit copy of letter from Mr. Ward
to Count Zoppi of Oct. 9. Drawing
attention to recent case of illegal embarkation
of emigrant from Italian coast. Ask for
intensification of operational measures, as
further attempts in near future are
likely.

Last Paper

9629

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8. Higham C.O.
Robertson D.I. 5.
Entered C.O. Off.
✓ Oct. 23

(Action
completed)

LC 1627/10

(Index)

10/10/48

Next Paper

9631

(Minutes.)

Copies to C.O.
M.I. 5
Cabinet Office } usual names

The Embassy have taken this action
on their own initiative. I hope the
warning in the last sentence will have
a salutary effect.

Stable
(J.E. CABLE)
16/10

Western Dept. (Italian Section)

The Embassy rightly stick in a
warning about replacement
JB Oct. 17

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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No. 444

(37/193/47)

E

63

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, 9th October, 1947.

Reference to previous despatch :

E 9630
16 OCT

~~From~~ Foreign Office
~~To~~

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter from Mr. Ward to Count Zoppi, dated 9/10/47.	Jewish illegal emigrants.

64

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2			

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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but

that we are

recent

4

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305

E

E 9631

65

1947

16 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9631/84/31

Legation

Legation

1140/47

24 Sept
16 Oct

Gloria

Refer W. Tera departed 5.165/-/47/ of 5/9
(E 838/84/31) transmit copy of note n° 5
to W. Tera of 24 Sept. Regarding possible
border area Registry of sea-going tug
Gloria

Last Paper

9630

References

2/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Scher.

M.I.

23 Oct.

Rd, Washington.

11927

18 Nov.

[Rtd Legation 18 Savir
Jerusalem]8, 991 (un 1072/48/31)
Nov. 21(Action
completed)

J. E. M. 27/10

(Index)

10/11/4

Next Paper

E 9681

(Minutes)

Copy to Mr. Scher M.I.S.

N.A. Def. 24/10.

M.I.S. have now discovered further
grounds for suspicion. Telegram sent to
Washington.

16/10

18/11

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Reference:

FO

371

61850

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Reference: **FO 371 61850**

British Legation,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras,

By K.M.

24th September, 1947.

67

No. 5.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

With reference to Your Excellency's despatch No. 1 (G.165/-/47) dated 5th September, 1947, transmitting copies of letters to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office, regarding possible Honduran registry for the sea-going tug "Gloria", I have the honour to report that no application has as yet been received by the Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of War, Marine and Aviation for such registration.

2. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble Servant,

(sgd) Rees J. Fowler.

H. B. M. Minister.

His Excellency,

The Right Honourable Lord Inverchapel, G.C.M.G.,

His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,

British Embassy,

Washington, D.C.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371

61850

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58

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. E9631/87/51

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Washington

Telegram.

No. 11937

(Date) Nov. 18

Repeat to:—

Tequigalpa (Sering)
✓ No. 1857

Jerusalem (Sering)
✓ No. —

Pro Clair.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental NO. 1

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

OUT FILE
CYPHER

68

Despatched 10.45 AM.

Confidential

Your blamery letter to Eastern
Dept. no. G 165/47 of 5th September.

As you will have seen
from Foreignly List of Suspect
Shipping no. 24, we now have
additional reason to suspect the
"GLORIA" and you may consider it
advisable, if you have not already
done so, to draw State Department's
attention to her.

[Signature]
18/11

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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OUT FILE

69

B9631/84/31
Cypher/OTP
Confidential

DEPARTMENTAL NO 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 11927

D. 10.45 am. 19th November,
1947.

18th November, 1947

Repeated to Tegucigalpa No. 18 Saving.
Jerusalem Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Chancery letter to Eastern Department

No. G165/47 of 5th September.

As you will have seen from Fortnightly List of
Suspect Shipping No.24, we now have additional reason
to suspect the "Gloria" and you may consider it
advisable, if you have not already done so, to draw
State Department's attention to her.

///

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

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CONFIDENTIAL - THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



British Embassy,

Paris.

72/-/47

8th October, 1947.

E 9681

17 OCT

My dear John,

An American citizen, resident in France, Mr. Ray Powers, who is slightly Jewish in appearance recently called on one of the Commercial Secretaries. He represents in France a United States company which controls two panamanian companies. The two latter companies own two petrol tankers, each of 372 nett registered tons. They are said to be registered with the American Bureau of Shipping, but as ex-United States surplus ships they are not allowed to sail under the United States flag, nor apparently will the Government of Panama allow any ships of under 500 tons to be registered under their flag, unless they are in Panamanian waters.

Mr. Powers wishes to use these two vessels in France where we have ascertained that the Groupement d'Achat des Carburants have agreed to give them a contract for the coastal transport of oil products between Marseilles and the Etang de Berre, for an initial period up to the end of this year, with the possibility of renewal after that.

Mr. Powers stated that the Government of Honduras has agreed to allow the vessels to sail under the Honduras flag, provided that the British Embassy in Paris gives its approval, this condition apparently being designed to ensure that the vessels are not used in the illegal immigration traffic to Palestine.

Mr. Powers quoted several references, but those which were consulted by the Commercial Secretary stated that he and his associates are known but slightly to them.

We felt that no checking of intentions and of bona fides on our part could guarantee that these ships might not, after their initial service on behalf of the Groupement d'Achat des Carburants, be moved into the illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine. We accordingly informed Mr. Powers that we were not in a position to give approval to his proposal and that, if he wished to pursue the matter further, he would have to take it up in London with a view to the Foreign Office issuing the necessary instructions to us. Mr. Powers at this stage stated that the United States Government had taken the matter up with our Embassy in Washington and that he understood that approval would be given.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Allen at Washington.

Yours ever,
Haffner

G.A. Crossley.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office. S.W.1.

CONFIRMATION OF THE POLICE RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1	2	3	4	5	6
1		2			

Reference: **FO** 371 61850

307

72

E

E 9683

1947

PALESTINE

17 OCT

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9683/84/31

Constant and

Constant

AB/98

15 Oct

17 -

MR. SPYRIDON POTAMIANOS

where P. Weigham - Richardson also instructed
Constant and Constant to interview Mr
Potamianos, concerning his career and
to submit findings to HQ. with a view to
establishing his innocence re illegal
immigration. Now enclose notes of an
interview.

Last Paper

9681

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

S. Weigham 80

Robertson mtr

Rennie mtr

Oct - 23

Sgt. Constant and Constant

Nov. 7

(Minutes.)

Copies to:

C.O.

M.I.5

usual names

Min. of P. (Mr. Rennie)

B.U. 27/10

B.U. 5/11

I have discussed this with M.I.5 who
are trying to check this up.
Acknowledgement to Constant & Constant

S. P. P. Constant and Constant AB/PW/IR 10/11

JB Mr. 12

(Action
completed)

(Index)

J. C. 8/11

10/11

Next Paper

E 9709

32538

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6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.
 TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON
 TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
 (PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

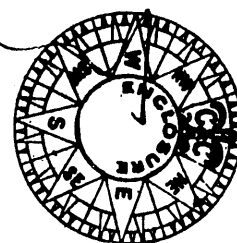
17 OCT

15th October, 1947.

For attention of Mr. Cable.

Re : Mr. Spyridon Potamianos

Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
~~Eastern~~ Section,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.



References

371

6185

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Notes taken at interview with SPYRIDON
POTAMIANOS

74

Spyridon Potamianos resides at 27, Aftalofou Street, Athens, Greece, with his wife and two children, a son aged 19 and a daughter aged 15, both of whom are at present attending school in Greece.

Spyridon Potamianos was born on the 12th December, 1895 at Cephalonia Island, Greece and is now 52 years old. His father was a Captain and shipowner born in Greece.

Mr. Potamianos has two brothers living, the elder aged 60, Gerassimos Potamianos residing in Athens, Greece, who during the whole of the occupation was resident in Greece and recently left Athens for America to sign on a Greek Ship as Chief Engineer. His younger brother, aged 55, throughout the War was Captain of vessels in the Far East and is at present a Captain of a Greek ship which is in America. He is married to an English woman.

Spyridon Potamianos was educated in Greece and in 1908 commenced work as an apprentice on Greek ships and in 1918 obtained his Master's Certificate. He continued to serve on various ships until 1922 when he had his first command of a Greek ship at Alexandria.

From 1922 until 1939 he was Master of various Greek Ships and his last ship was the s.s. "MARIA DEFTERCOS" which he left at Piraeus in 1938. In 1938 he commenced business in Athens as a Marine Surveyor which necessitated his attending at various ports throughout the Mediterranean inspecting ships on behalf of various owners.

In 1941 he commenced employment with Messrs. P. Paramythiotis and G. Vouyovcles of Alexandria and Cairo, shipbrokers and engineers and during the course of such employment inspected ships and sold machinery, engines etc. and continued with this firm until 1945.

In 1941 while in Cairo he concluded negotiations and purchased the ship s.s. "MARY" registered under the Egyptian Flag. Mr. Potamianos owned 10 shares and Mr. Nicolaos Zoidies the remaining 90. Mr. Potamianos' Shares were sold in 1943.

During the period 1943/45 Mr. Potamianos built a small craft of 300 tons. In 1945 he returned to his residence in Athens and stayed there for six months. He then returned to Cairo with the intention of building various ships but up until 1946 January, he was unable to obtain any licence from the Egyptian Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

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371

61850

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In January, 1946 he met Mr. Gospinaratos and they discussed the possibility of building a ship and Mr. Gospinaratos said he would help financially and would buy a ship. Mr. Potamianos was thereupon given full instructions by Power of Attorney to proceed to London and in July, 1946 he came to Messrs. P. Wigham-Richardson and bought a ship known as the "KORA". He had full instructions from Mr. Gospinaratos to do all matters in connection with the management, fixing and generally relating to the ship.

Mr. Potamianos remained in London from July, 1946 until December, 1946 and concerned himself with the fixing and running of the vessel by Messrs. P. Wigham-Richardson. He returned to Cairo in December, and arrived back in England in February, 1947. In March, 1947 Mr. Potamianos proceeded to Genoa. He made the necessary arrangements in London for the vessel to proceed to Leghorn for conversion from coal burning to oil burning. Messrs. P. Wigham-Richardson did not fix the vessel in ballast from the United Kingdom to Leghorn but fixed with cargo by Messrs. Norton Lines Ltd., to Oporto and Lisbon. The Captain had instructions to proceed from Lisbon to Leghorn, to complete the conversion.

In the meantime Mr. Potamianos had received advice that the repairs could not be completed at Leghorn but would be completed at Genoa. He accordingly cabled the Captain who arrived at Genoa. Mr. Potamianos met the ship on arrival and the ship was not carrying any cargo of any description. Whilst in Genoa, Mr. Potamianos had a serious attack of pleurisy and he used to proceed each day from his hotel to the ship and usually stay on board for two hours and then go back to the hotel.

On one occasion when he was on board the vessel resting in the saloon a man came on board the vessel and was noticed by the Chief Engineer and Chief Officer and he insisted on seeing Mr. Potamianos with reference to the Palestinian Immigration Trade. He was taken into the saloon and in the presence of Mr. Potamianos and the Chief Officer and Chief Engineer, he discussed his intentions. Before he had proceeded very far, Mr. Potamianos told him that the owner and/or himself were not interested in the business in any form and the man was told to leave the ship.

Throughout the whole of Mr. Potamianos' experience in the Mediterranean he has not visited or resided in any port in Palestine. Whilst he is aware of the Palestinian Immigration Trade he has not been associated with any persons, firms companies ships or vessels engaged in the Immigration Trade.

Mr. Potamianos is also aware that there are four brothers, owners of a Shipping Business in Piraeus, bearing the same surname as himself. He has only heard of them indirectly and has never been introduced or met them personally.

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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1				2	

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 9683/84/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft.

Memo. Constant
& Constant

RECEIVED IN DIVISION.	
5 NOV 1947	
SENT TO TYPE	5/11
DESPATCHED	

M.I.5 cover

6 am
Th
77

+ O C 7th Nov.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr.
Secretary Bevin to acknowledge
your letter no. AB/G.B of the
15th October about Mr.
SPYRIDON POTAMIANOS and to
state that further investigation
of this case is now being made.

I am etc.

[Signature]
5/11

(Sgd.) Paul Grey.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

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9683/84/31

S.W.1.

7th November, 1947.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary
Bevin to acknowledge your letter No.
AB/G.B of the 15th October about Mr.
Spyridon Potamianos and to state that
further investigation of this case is now
being made.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Paul Grey.

Messrs. Constant and Constant,
Baltic Exchange Chambers,
24 St. Mary Axe,
E.C.3.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference:

FO 371

61850

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309

E

79

1947

PALESTINE

E 9714

18 OCT

Registry
Number

E 9714/54/81

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

114 Holman
Buchanan

Dated

1159

Received
in Registry170.4
18

"Pan Am" and "Pan Am"
 After Buchan at 1147 (E 9515/54/81)
 Party members of the crew of these
 vessels given subject to be diagnosed
 - their discharge at sea. They knew they
 were not to be taken on
 they did not know what was the
 reason was to be put.

Last Paper.

9709

References.

(Minutes.)

This is encouraging and I hope it may
 produce results. This is the first indication we
 have had that there were any Italians among
 the crews of these ships, which were previously
 reported as being manned by American Genl.

J. E. Cable
 (J. E. CABLE)
 20/10

Italian Section
 21/10

JB out. 20

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9.1. (on E 9571)
 Oct. 21

(Action
completed.)

J. E. Cable
 19/10

(In reply)

J. E. Cable
 19/10

Next Paper.

E 9720

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Holman,
No.1159

17th October, 1947.

D: 8.44 a.m. 17th October, 1947

R: 10.32 a.m. 17th October, 1947.

Repeated to Moscow,

Sofia,

Middle East Office Cairo,

Jerusalem,

Angera,

Commander in Chief [grp. omitted ? Mediterranean]
Malta.

Confidential.

My telegram No.1147.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

E 9714

18 OCT

Twenty members of the crews of these vessels, Italian subjects, have demanded their discharge at Constantza because they maintain that when they signed on the crew lists they did not know to what use the vessels were to be put.

2. Discreet steps are being taken to increase alarm and discontent amongst these Italians and any Roumanian sailors who may be tempted to replace them.

3. There is still no definite indication of the place of embarkation of the Jewish immigrants.

Foreign Office please repeat to Moscow, Middle East Office Cairo, Jerusalem, Commander in Chief Mediterranean Malta, and Angera as my telegrams 126,20, 58 9 and 35 respectively.

[Repeated to Moscow, British Middle East Office Cairo and Angera].

[Copies sent to telegraph Section Colonial Office and War Registry Admiralty for transmission to Jerusalem and Commander in Chief Mediterranean Malta respectively].

A A A A



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100 84

J. E. Cable
(J. E. CABLE)

20/10

Crowd.

I will inform M.
Contostavlos of the final result
when I see him tomorrow

Bot. 20

8/17

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

IL.

TELEPHONE,
MAYFAIR 0694.
" 0695.

URGENT

No. 6755/B/47.

E 9720

18 OCT

AMBASSADE ROYALE DE GRÈCE,
51, UPPER BROOK STREET,
W. I.

London, 16th October, 1947.

Dear Beith,

The Costa Rica steamer "Colony Trader" was detained at Gibraltar months ago on suspicion of trading with the illegal transportation of Jews to Palestine.

On the 10th September last our Consul in Gibraltar received telegraphic notification from the Minister of Mercantile Marine in Athens informing him that the steamer had been purchased by Mr. Ioannis Lykides of Apellou 1, Athens, and authorising the issue of a provisional Greek Mercantile Marine certificate subject to certain provisions regarding the composition of the crew.

Mr. Kyriakos Spyliopoulos, a Greek Barrister has since arrived at Gibraltar with a power of attorney from Mr. Lykides and made the necessary approaches to the local authorities for the release of the "Colony Trader" in consideration of her change of ownership. The local Government has cabled the Secretary of State for Colonies asking for instructions but no reply has been received so far.

In view of the long delay experienced in obtaining a decision, Mr. Spyliopoulos came by air to London where he is staying until the 21st instant in an endeavour to expedite the release of the vessel.

I should be obliged if you would look into this matter and should you think it useful arrange for Mr. Spyliopoulos to discuss it with the competent authorities before his departure from London on the 21st instant.

J. Beith Esq.,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

./.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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TELEPHONE,
MAYFAIR 0694.
" 0695.

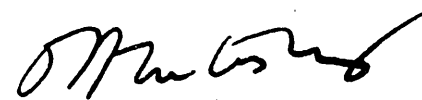
83
AMBASSADE ROYALE DE GRÈCE,
51, UPPER BROOK STREET,
W. I.

-2-

London, 16th October, 1947.

Mr. Spyliopoulos explained to me that it is very important for Mr. Lykides to have the ship released as quickly as possible on consideration of the heavy losses he is daily bearing so long as the ship is detained.

Yours sincerely,



O. Contostavlos.
Counsellor.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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311

E

E 9731

20 OCT

1947

PALESTINE

84

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9731/84/31

Consulate

Bordaux

7002/40/4/2

10 Oct

18 -

S.S. Poduocch

Refer. FO letter (E8453/84/31) Lloyd
agent Bayonne, the local Harbourmaster
and Panamanian Consul all agreed tonight
that there were no passengers aboard
'Poduocch' when she left Bayonne.
is invited to release them

Last Paper

9720

References

20/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8. Nigham

Robertson

31 Oct.

10. Algiers no. 96

9. Bucharest no. 472

Paris no. 1352

Lyon no. 262

Oct. 30

(Action
completed)

21/10

(Index)

19/10

Next Paper

9733

(Minutes.)

Lloyd

usual
names

and under 2/4 to:

Alger
Bucharest
Paris
Lyon.

10/10

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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BN/F

Confidential.

E 9731

20 OCT

85

British Consulate,
15, Cours de Verdun,
Bordeaux.

(7002/40/4/2)

10th. October, 1947.

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter of September
16th. (E.8453/84/31) about the "Paducah".

2. Lloyds Agent at Bayonne, (an Englishman
who was keeping a close eye on the "Paducah" for
me), the local harbour master and the Panamanian
Consul in Bordeaux, all assured me that there were
no passengers aboard when the ship left Bayonne
— and I am inclined to believe them.

3. In my telegram No. 44 of July 7th.
I informed you that the "Paducah" and "Northlands"
each had "crews" of about 35 men, which was about
three times the number required; perhaps the
British visitor to whom the Sofia telegram refers
was confused by that fact.

Yours ever,

Rayce Harkin

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

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312

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 9733

20 OCT

86

Registry
Number

E 9733/84/31

FROM

Consulate

No.

Bordeaux

Dated

4010/20/11/2

Received
in Registry

10 Oct

20 -

SS. 'Northlands'

Transmit copy of letter from R.F.M. Navin
to G.O. Browley. Paris, embarking copies of
ships inventory, and documents for
crew of R.F.M. 'Northlands'

Last Paper

9731

(8644)

(Minutes.)

[Signature] 21/10

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

[Signature] 21/10

(Index)

[Signature] 21/10

Next Paper

(10282)

9715

39538

1
2
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4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371

61850

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010/40/4/2)

BRITISH CONSULATE

BORDEAUX

87
10th. October, 1947.

E 9733

20 OCT

With the Compliments

of

His Britannic Majesty's Consul.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

W/F

Confidential.

88

(7010/40/4/2)

British Consulate,
15, Cours de Verdun,
Bordeaux.

10th. October, 1947.

Dear Crossley,

Your letter of September 12th.
(72/798/47) about the "Northlands".

2. I enclose herewith copies of the lists which were attached to the original letter to which you refer. The lists were certified by the captain of the vessel himself and, as I was convinced that they were false, I attached no importance to them. I received the lists within a few hours of the vessel's departure; so it was impossible to do anything further in the matter; it had in fact been arranged that my Panamanian colleague and I should go down and inspect the ship, on receipt of the inventory.

3. I am sending copy of this letter to Eastern Department.

Yours ever,

(Signed) B.J.M. NAIRN.

G.A. Crossley, Esquire.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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COPY.

SHIPS INVENTORY- M.V. NORTHLAND.

89

- 4 Lifeboats - completely outfitted.
- 8 Rafts
- 50 Lifebelts
- 10 units CO2 Fire Extinguishers - (Loaded)
- 8 Fire Hoses
- 5 Life Rings
- 3 Coils of 3" line (spare)
- 2 Coils of wire cable (spare)
- 20 Gallons Paints
- 1 Set spare navigation lights
- 2 Patent anchors - housed forward
- 1 Admiralty anchor - aft (spare)
- 1 Spare propeller
- 1 Complete set signal flags
- 1 Complete radio set
- 1 Master Gyro directional indicator & 3 repeaters.
- 1 Standard Compass
- 1 Steering Compass
- 1 Emergency hand-operated fog whistle.
- 1 General alarm system (electrically operated)
- Very pistols, very pistol flares and distress signals.
- 1 Set carpentry tools.
- Fuel.
- Spare parts for motors and generators.
- Complete set of engine room tools.
- 1 Complete set of first aid medical supplies.

CERTIFY CORRECT

BAYONNE 25th AUGUST 1947

Master
(Signed) E.J. Morgan.

Stamp of
m/s "NORTHLAND"
Panama-City

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61850

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COPY.

PROVISIONS FOR CREW OF M.V. NORTHLAND.

910

Meat	400 lbs.
Preserved Butter	20 lbs.
Eggs	1000 only
Sugar	100 lbs.
Coffee	20 lbs.
Téa	15 lbs.
Flour	200 lbs.
Cocoa	20 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	30 lbs.
Fruit Juices	50 Gallons
Potatoes	400 lbs.
Macaroni	30 lbs.
Spaghetti	40 lbs.
Canned Beans	50 Cans
Peas, green	50 lbs.
Tomato Juice	2 Gallons
Fresh Vegetables	5 Cases
Jam	25 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	8 Cases
Canned Meat	2 Cases
Canned Peaches	2 Cases
Cooking Oil	10 Gallons
Salt	100 lbs.
Mustard and Catsup	1 Case
Pepper	5 lbs.
Fresh Fish	50 lbs.
Sea Crackers	50 lbs.
Canned vegetable soup	2 Cases
Farina	50 lbs.
Cigarettes	4 Cases

CERTIFY CORRECT

BAYONNE 25th AUGUST 1947

Stamp of
m/s "NORTHLAND"
Panama-City.

Master (Signed) E. J. Morgan.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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2/3

1947

E

E 9755

20 OCT

91

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 9755/84/51

TELEGRAM FROM

No. M. Helman
Bucharest

Dated 11/11
Received in Registry 17/11

For "Lancet"
Re Bucharest 11/11 (E 9755/84/51) M. Helman
J.P. was 5/11 on a visit to Bucharest by
Romanian Govt. who had a large amount
of timber of mostly ornamental material
to be carried to carry timber to the
J.P. Govt. 8/11/11. The timber was
by the J.P. Govt. and was not to be
sent to the J.P. Govt. by the J.P. Govt.

Last Paper.

9725

References.

(Minutes.)

I understand that Mr. Helman is
a Jewish Yellow-Kneller.

Ballie
(J.E. CABRE)
20/10

This is rather peculiar.
Agree that we should endeavour
to secure a report by Mr
Solley. It could do no harm.
Draft minute submitted.
Private Sec. D.S. Benis
Oct. 20

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9.9.11
✓ 29
M. Helman
Bucharest.
from M. Burrows
✓ Dec. 2

(Action completed.)

2 E 9755/84/51
4 E 9755/84/51

(Index.)

10/11/48

Next Paper.

9760

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/35 F.O.P.

Bu. Nov 15

to Nov-6
/m.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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91A

TABLE
(T. R. CABLE)

 $21/11$

AB MV. 21

(J. E. CABER)

21/11

L. R. L. Ryan
24/11

VAB 3
28.11

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1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371** **61850**

92

VISIT OF MR. SOLLEY, M.P. TO THE
HARBOUR OF CONSTANTZA.

Mr. Holman reports that Mr. Solley was taken on a visit to Constantza by the Rumanian Government, although in the case of the British Parliamentary Delegation, a similar visit had been cancelled at the last moment. Amongst other ships in the harbour, he saw the s.s. "Pan Crescent" flying the Panamanian flag. Mr. Solley told Mr. Holman that he had noticed a large amount of timber lying on the jetty for loading either in the "Pan Crescent" or some Greek vessel.

Mr. Holman is convinced that Mr. Solley was well aware that the "Pan Crescent" was not engaged in the timber trade, and that her real business was Jewish illegal immigration. He did not, however, raise this point with Mr. Solley, and has suggested that we should arrange to question him on his return to England. If Mr. Solley maintains that the ship was engaged in the timber trade, and it then sails with illegal immigrants, Mr. Solley could be shown to have been purposely and completely deceived by the Rumanian Government.

I do not imagine the Secretary of State will wish to see Mr. Solley personally in this matter. It is, therefore, suggested that the Chief Whip might be asked to secure a report from Mr. Solley.

Private Secretary.

J. G. S. Beith

(J. G. S. Beith)

22nd October, 1947.

R. J. J. J.
22/x

Mr. Mayhew

B. B. J. J.
23. x

The Roumanian Group of the I.P.U. first asked the British Group to add Messrs. Solley, Piratin and Pritt to the I.P.U. Delegation to Roumania, and when it was explained that this was impossible, invited their three friends to go at the same time as the Delegation. Mr. Piratin did go; Mr. Pritt was unable to go at all; Mr. Solley, I believe, postponed his visit for a few days.

/You

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

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92A

You may care to ask him yourself about the "Pan Crescent."

C. F. Warner

23rd October, 1947.

I should be interested to hear Mr. Solley's views, & will have a word with him. But I cannot see much practical advantage in this idea, whatever was its form and.

C.F.M.

23/x

Mr. Benis
Oct. 28

B.U. Nov: 3-4

R.P.

28/x

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **61850**

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman D. 1.15 p.m. 17th October, 1947
No. 1184
17th October, 1947. R. 3.19 p.m. 17th October, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem
B.M.E.O. Cairo
Sofia
Angora
Moscow

E 9755

20 OCT

CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 1137: Jewish illegal immigration.

Mr. Solley M.P. informed me last night that he had been taken on a visit to Costantza by the Roumanian Government (in the case of British Parliamentary Delegation a similar visit had been cancelled at the last moment) where, under the direction of the port director he had visited replenishment ships in the harbour, including "Pan Crescent" flying the Panamanian flag. He added that he had noticed a large amount of timber lying on the jetty for loading either in "Pan Crescent" or some Greek vessel with destination Italy and Middle East.

2. I am convinced Solley was well aware that "Pan Crescent" was not engaged in timber trade and that her real employment was Jewish illegal immigration. He did not, however, allude to the point and I thought it better not to question him. On the other hand Mr. Solley might be questioned about his visit to the ship on his return to England. If he still maintains that it was engaged in timber traffic and it then sails with Jewish illegal immigrants some play might be made with the fact that he has been purposely and completely deceived by the Roumanian Government.

Foreign Office please repeat to Jerusalem, M.E. Office Cairo, Angora and Moscow as my telegrams Nos. 59, 21, 36 and 127 respectively.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo, Angora and Moscow.
Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office
for repetition to Jerusalem].

0 0 0 0



1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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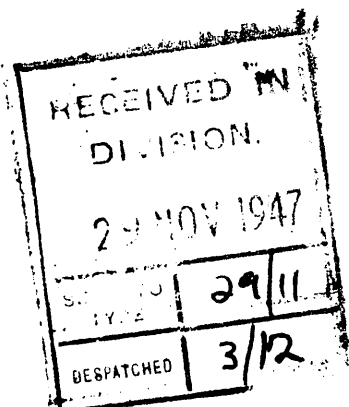
Registry
No. E9755/84/31

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

J.E.C.

Draft.

Mr. Holman
Purchases
from
B.A.B.
Mr. Burrows
a



Mr. Reddaway first
Please see minutes
below

I do not think
we should say
more than that
"Mr. Mayhew formed
the impression
& formed the impression
that he had no
intention of giving
us any help"

N. Reddaway
21 Nov

Amended accordingly

JB NOV. 22

L. P. L. Ryan
24/11

OUT FILE

29 ~

11 ~ 9H

21 Dec

Confidential

Dear Holman,

In your telegram no. 1164
about the illegal immigrant ship
"PAN CRESSENT" you
suggested that Mr. Solley might
be asked about his visit to
this vessel.

2. Mr. Solley was seen by
the Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
but merely repeated the story
reported in your telegram under
reference. Mr. Mayhew formed
the impression that Mr. Solley's
attitude was entirely disingenuous
and that he had no real
intention of giving us any help
whatsoever.

3. I am doubtful about the
suggestion in the last sentence
of your telegram under reference,
that as Mr. Solley's "deception" by
the Roumanian Govt. might form
the

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference: FO 371 / 61850					

the subject of propaganda. ~~Such~~
~~propaganda was the effectiveness of~~
~~such action would probably be~~
~~greatly nullified by our inability~~
~~to inspire credence in the genuineness~~
~~of the deception.~~ It might be
 difficult to show that
 Mr Sollen was really
 "deceived".

BAB

28.11

Yours ever

(Sgd.) B.A.B. Burrows

94A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

2nd December, 1947.

(E. 9755/84/31)

Confidential

Dear Holman,

In your telegram No. 1164 about the illegal immigrant ship "Pan Crescent" you suggested that Mr. Solley might be asked about his visit to this vessel.

2. Mr. Solley was seen by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, but merely repeated the story reported in your telegram under reference. Mr. Mayhew formed the impression that he had no intention of giving us any help.

3. I am doubtful about the suggestion in the last sentence of your telegram under reference, that Mr. Solley's "deception" by the Roumanian Government might form the subject of propaganda. It might be difficult to show that Mr. Solley was really "deceived".

Yours ever

(Sgd.) (B.A.B. Burrows)

A. Holman, Esq., C.M.G., M.C.,
Bucharest.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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314

E

96

1947

PALESTINE

E 9760

20 OCT

Registry
Number

E9760/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

For J. M. Lott
Account
2006
15 Oct
20 -

Y. G. L. Immigration Policy
for 10 Oct 2122 (E 9781/84/31) It appears that
in view of indications that a number of Jewish
or preparing a new and more organized
activity. Representations will be made to
Court of Appeal during the forthcoming visit
to London.

Last Paper.

9755

References.

9482/84/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 10 P. (E 9571)
Oct-21

(Action
completed.)

9 Oct 19/11

Next Paper.

E9783

(Index.)

10 Oct 19/11

(Minutes.)

I think it would be a good
idea to raise the subject of Jewish
illegal immigration with Count
Spiza. Several ships have recently
been allowed to leave Italy in
spite of our representations to
the Italian Govt. If Italian
Section agree, we might prepare
a brief.

Western (Reh.) Italian Section

[Signature]
(J.E. CABLE)
21/10

Yes: perhaps Italian
Section would say when they
expect Count S. ? J. Bort. 22

He arrives on Monday
evening by train. There therefore
scarcely seems time to warn him
first. Draft briefs are being submitted

WI. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

Now see E 10032 *[Signature]* 23/10

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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97

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO 371** **61850**

67850

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to/

97A

5. The Secretary of State may, therefore, wish to explain

24th October, 1947.

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Reference:

FQ 371 / 61850

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet
No. 2006

D. 5.07 p.m. 19th October 1947
R. 6.41 p.m. 19th October 1947

18th October 1947

IMPORTANT
SECRET

Your telegram No. 2,120.

Jewish illegal immigration.

E 9760

20 OCT

In view of the indications that organisers of this traffic are preparing a new and serious campaign in Italy you may wish to take the opportunity of visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs to London to impress your views strongly on the Italian Government. As reported in Mr. Ward's telegram No. 1941, the Minister was recently reminded of these views and the Italian authorities will probably take especial pains to avoid unpleasant incidents during the period covering the Minister's London visit. My experts are moreover now adopting more direct methods of interfering with the traffic, which promise some success. But I feel that it is essential that we should keep up our pressure on the Italian Government and I hope that you will be prepared to raise the matter with Count Sforza.

2. Count Sforza has already indicated his disinterest in Displaced Persons items in the agenda (see paragraph 6 of Ward's telegram No. 1940) and I suggest if you agree it would be wise for me to warn him now that you intend to raise cognate Jewish question.

3. We are telegraphing comments (requested in your telegram No. 2034) on Mr. Ruck's report on his investigations into Italian frontier control and will [gp. undec. ? also] suggest shortly any other major points in connexion with illegal immigration which may occur to us as worth stressing.

ccc



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1947

E

E 9783

PALESTINE

21 OCT

Registry
Number

E 9783/84/31

FROM

E. O. Morales

No.

Paramanian

Dated

Legation

Received
in Registry

C. 1183 EAM

17 Oct

21

Pan Amco - Pan Amco
 Has since received reply from his point
 concerning request that he be authorized
 to proceed to the collection from the
 Paramanian registry of the vessels,
 stating that they would approve, he and
 of the ship caught in transit.

Last Paper

9760

References

E 9314/84/31

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

I have told Sr Morales that the
 Dardanelles idea is ok (see
 E 9829/84/31)

JBout. 21

(Action
completed)

J. E. Morales

(Index)

10/16/48

Next Paper

9781

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Reference:

FO

371

61850

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CONSULADO GENERAL
DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA

No. C-1183
EAM

London, 17th October, 1947

Dear Mr. Beith

Kindly refer to my letter No. C-1147 dated the 6th
October relative to the panamanian registered steamers
s.s. "PAN CRESCENT" and s.s. "PAN YORK".

I have since received a reply from my Government
concerning my request that I be authorized to proceed to
the cancellation from the panamanian registry of the said
vessels. I conveyed this reply to you over the telephone
several days ago and I confirm it now by enclosing a copy
of the Government's cabled reply.

As you will see, the Government would approve the
arrest of the ships caught infraganti and in view of the
fact that the ships will have to go through the Dardanelles
Strait, we might yet be in a position to act before any harm
is done. I shall be very interested to hear what the Foreign
Office has to say in the matter discussed by us yesterday
evening.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1

Ensebio A. Morales
Ensebio A. Morales
Consul General

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61850

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101

090 PANAMA 41 PANAMAGHR 6 215 P Oct.6 P 9 14

PANACONSUL LONDRES: Imposible aplicar sancion naves
por sospechas PUNTO Gobierno aprobaria apresamiento
naves sorprendidas infraganti hecho que justificaria
cancelación a base prueba obtenida de tráfico ilegal
PUNTO Cancelación puede concederse a solicitud intere-
sados--

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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E

E 9785

21 OCT

1947

PALESTINE

Illegal Immigration, Panamanian ships.

Have reasons why a reply cannot be
extracted from the Panamanian Govt
about Palestinian ships.

Registry Number E 9785-84/21
 FROM J. Greenway
 No. Legation
 Dated Panama
 Received 88/176/47
 in Registry 14, Oct
 21 -

Last Paper

9783

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8/ Higham. 80.
 Robertson. M.I.S.
 Overhead. Bab off
 Nov. 1
 Oct

(Action completed)

PSM/11
 7/10/11

(Index)

10/6/48

Next Paper

9800

(Minutes.)

This explains quite a lot

Copies to:

C.I.
M.I.S.

Babine's Office

usual
names

N.A. Dept. R.

24/11

Handwritten signature
 (J.E. CABLE)
 21/10

Bot. 21

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 Reference: FO 371/61850

88/176/47

AIR MAIL

RESTRICTED

E 9785

21 OCT

BRITISH LEGATION,
PANAMA.

14th October 1947

Dear North American Department,

You must think it very odd that we cannot extract any reply from the Panamanian Government about the Palestinian ships. The set-up here is a little unusual.

The total staff of the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (excluding the Chief of Protocol) consists of three officials only, to deal with all their Foreign Relations. Of these, one is always on leave. The Ministry is only open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and of the two officials remaining one is nearly always visiting his family - or worse. In any case, only one of the three is sufficiently senior, or intelligent, to be of any use whatever.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is at U.N.O. Even if he were here, he would not be a great deal of help as he generally takes an ultra-legalistic view of anything: fatal in the present case. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs is a dear old gentleman who knows nothing of and cares less for any kind of foreign relations. In any case, he is at present in the Black Books of the President owing to internal political quarrels.

It is like conducting diplomatic business with an eiderdown.

Yours ever,

John Green

North American Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

26

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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it may be as well to set out the reasons which make effective control of the northern frontier of Italy our concern as well as that of the Italian Government. Although, in view of our impending withdrawal from Palestine and of the large numbers of Jews already in Italy, Jews now crossing the frontier are unlikely to arrive in Palestine waters before British control of immigration into Palestine has ceased, it is nevertheless in our interests to assist the Italian Government in preventing this movement. The reason for this is that the willingness of the Italian Government to prevent the clandestine departure of Jewish illegal immigrants is largely dependent on the cooperation received from us in preventing the entry into Italy of more Jews with the same destination in mind. In order to encourage the Italians to prevent the sailing of illegal immigrant ships (whose arrival in Palestine waters at this critical period would have most unfortunate consequences) we must do all we can to help them to prevent any more Jews from entering Italy.

5. These Jews come from all over Europe but they cross into Italy from the U.S. and French Zones of Austria, whose authorities, again not unnaturally, are anxious to get rid of them. The results of our representations to the French and U.S. zonal authorities on the lines of Mr. Ruck's recommendations at A (i) (E 8410, Flag A) are reiterated in WR 3177, Flag B, WR 3240, Flag C, and C 7180, Flag D, and were largely negative. Mr. Ruck tells me that the Krimmel Pass from the U.S. Zone will now be made impassable by snow, and that the Jews will have to cross from the French Zone, though many of them will undoubtedly start their journey in the U.S. Zone. Our purpose must, therefore, be:

- (a) to induce the French to prevent Jews from crossing the Italian frontier from their Zone and to take back those who do;
- (b) to induce the French to prevent Jews from entering their Zone from the U.S. Zone;
- (c) to induce the Americans to prevent these from crossing into the French Zone and to take back those who do.

Mr. Ruck's recommendation A (ii) was opposed by our Deputy High Commissioner in Vienna (see para. 9 of Mr. Ruck's report) and need no longer be pressed since, by the time the Krimmel Pass is again open in the Spring, Jewish illegal immigration should no longer be a British problem. His recommendation A (iii) is considered below in another connexion.

6. His recommendations B (i), (ii), and (iii) have been communicated to the Italian authorities (see Rome telegram No. 2007 in this paper). The suggestion in paragraph 3 of Rome telegram No. 2008 (in this paper) was approved by the working party on Jewish illegal immigration and the Home Office have been asked to give it immediate consideration. Mr. Ruck has himself suggested that this officer, if appointed, could also fill the role of the liaison officer mentioned in his recommendation No. A (iii).

10411
Tel Vienna 1498
28 Oct
Rptd Paris 2305
Rome 2238
W'Zon 11162

8, 9.9.P.
✓ Nov 4
Tel W'Zon 11163
Rptd Paris 2306
Rome 2289
Vienna 1499
28 Oct

8, 9.9.P.
✓ Nov 4
Tel Vienna 1518
Rptd Rome 2335
Nov 1.

8, 9.9.P.
✓ W'Perry. 14.0.
✓ Nov 4

Tel Rome 2334
Rptd Vienna 1517
Nov 1.

8, 9.9.P.
✓ W'Perry. 14.0.
✓ Nov 4

1/2 cannot be sure / this.

Tel Vienna 1550
Rome 2375
10, Nov.

8, W'Perry. 14.0.
✓ Ruck. 14.0.
✓ Nov 12

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7. So far as I am aware, no action has yet been taken on Mr. Ruck's recommendations Nos. C (i) and C (ii), but U.N. Economic Department will doubtless wish to comment on this. In connexion with his recommendation No. C (iii), please see WR 3177 (Flag B), WR 3278 (Flag E) and WR 3332 (Flag F). Mr. Ruck feels strongly that the importance of this point has been under-estimated by our zonal authorities in Austria.

8. I therefore suggest that H.M. Representatives in Paris, Vienna and Washington should be instructed to make representations on the lines suggested in paragraph 5 (a), (b), and (c) above, and I submit draft telegrams. As soon as the Home Office inform us whether they are prepared to send Mr. Ruck or another official in his stead to Italy, we shall tell Rome and perhaps arrange for this point to be mentioned to Count Sforza during his visit to this country.

Western Department *S. H.*
(Italian Section)
German Political Dept.
(Austrian Section).

23rd October 1947.

C.N. (Econ. & Soc.) *Sept.*
N.A. *Sept.*

(J.E. CABLE)

D.S. Beins
Oct. 24

I think we should be honest and give the date of the incident described in para 3 of the draft to Washington

C.A. Thompson
24.10

Return to Dept. A.S.

P. J. Farran
28/X

File A.S.

BABS

28. X

We should now reply to Rome and, at the same time, warn both them and Vienna of the impending arrival.

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105A.

By, Nov. 3
7:45 a.m.

JB out. 31

Palmer
(J.E. CABLE)
1/11

V.N. (Econ. & Soc.) Dept.

I do not think that we should be on very good ground in asking IRO and the Italian Govt. to take steps against ASDC unless we are prepared to stop that organisation from operating in our zones of Germany & Austria. In view of the humanitarian nature of so much of their work, I doubt whether we should be justified in doing more than repeating our previous warnings to IRO and the Italians that they should be careful not to give ASDC too much rope.

W. Williamson 3/11

Ans. Wilkinson $\frac{3}{11}$

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Reference: **FO** 371 61850

I agree with Mr. Wilkinson. Rome Embassy have already arranged for some publicity about the illegal activities of A.T.O.C., but can not publish "proof" which ~~is~~ is mainly derived from confidential sources. I suggest, therefore, that no further action need be taken on Mr. Ruck's recommendation c(i) (E 8410 - FLAG A). His recommendation c(ii) can be left to Rome Embassy to deal with.

It now only remains to inform Rome and Vienna of Mr. Perry's passport no. (764792) and date of arrival (as promised in our latest telegram). The Home Office have promised to let us have this information as soon as possible, probably before the end of this week.

B.V. 6/11

[Signature]
(J.E. CABRE)

4/11

P.S. Extract, "Daily Telegraph" 14/10.
Please see letter from Home Office of 5th November. We took similar action for Mr. Ruck (E 6333). I submit draft telegram

Finance Dept first

7/11
8/11

[Signature]
(J.E. CABRE)

6/11

Tel. sent

13 NOV. 10

P.T.

Noted for Extract *[Signature]* 11/25/11

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Mulan Dec 24/47. hari 38000 21816 = £ 20.18.6

90-8-8 for further action

see XF1454 KC1/48)

P. M. Goffron
(P. M. GOFFRON) 6/8/48.

LT. 26.viii

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266 - 107 E
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet.

No. 2007

18th October, 1947

D.10.19 a.m. 20th October, 1947

R.12.15 p.m. 20th October 1947

E 9800

IMPORTANT

Ward's telegram No.1941: Jewish illegal immigration.

It had been our understanding that Mr. Ruck after completing his report on his preliminary investigations of the frontier would have remained here to discuss his recommendations personally with the competent Ministries and to work out with the Italian authorities measures for improving control. The personal impressions he had formed of the situation would have been valuable for this purpose.

2. This understanding was shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ruck however on his return from the north was only able to spend one day in Rome before leaving, during which he paid a courtesy call on Ministry of the Interior.

3. His recommendations have since been passed unofficially to Ministry of the Interior and I am now bringing them to the attention of officials in a formal note. But if the subject of illegal immigration is to come up in talks with Count Sforza in London I suggest it would be wise to clear up in advance any misunderstanding over Ruck's mission with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

4. I should be grateful [?gp. omitted ?to] know whether it is intended that Ruck should return here himself or if not whether you are considering the appointment of a successor as envisaged in your telegram No.1406.

5. In view of the contacts which he established with Italian officials the former alternative would be preferable even if he were only available for a short visit while his recommendations were being considered by the Italian Government. In this connexion please see comments on his report in my immediately following telegram.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

k k k



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Reference:

FO

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61850

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106

Sir V. Mallet
No. 2008.
 October 18th, 1947.

D. 11.55. a.m. October 20th, 1947.
 R. 2.06. p.m. October 20th, 1947.

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

(b) British action to obtain greater co-operation from United States and French authorities in Austria.

W 340

5. We should point out in this connexion that the policy of "waiting for the snow" (paragraph I of your telegram 1864) is illusory. Last winter's figures according to our experts showed no appreciable drop in the numbers of Jews crossing the frontier.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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Registry
No. E 9800/84/31
J.E.C.

Draft.

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
~~Secret~~

Telegram.

Paris
No. 2304.
(Date) Oct 28th

Repeat to :-

W'ton No. 1116!
Rome No. 2287
Vienna No. 1497
JERUSALEM No

Working Draft
Final
21/11

~~Encl.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Departmental 2.

Copies to :-

I. I. P.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
NOV 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

Date

Despatched

Confidential

Despatched

1947. 109

M.

My telegrams Nos

to Vienna and 11163 [B] to Washington
[of 28th October: Jewish illegal
immigration].

Please request French Government to
instruct their authorities in Austria in
the sense of paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of my
telegram No. 1498 [A] to Vienna.

BASS

28 X

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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E 9800/84/31
Confidential
Cypher/OTP

110
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS.

No. 2304

28th October 1947. D. 8.15 p.m. 29th October 1947
Repeated to Washington No. 11161
Rome No. 2287
Vienna No. 1497
Jerusalem

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegrams Nos. 1498 to Vienna and 11163 to
Washington [of 28th October: Jewish illegal
immigration].

Please request French Government to instruct their
authorities in Austria in the sense of paragraph 3 (a)
and (b) of my telegram No. 1498 to Vienna.

V V V

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

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Registry
No. E 9800/84/31

J.E.C.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
Confidential.
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

Draft.

Vienna

Telegram

No. 1498.

Date. Oct. 28th

Repeat:

Paris No. 2205

✓ Rome No. 2288

Winton No. 1162

High Commr.
Jerusalem

No.

3 drafts
German (Cz.) Draft
British Draft
JB Oct. 24

Cypher

Departmental No 2.

Copies:

I.I.P.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
10 OCT 1947
TO DEPT.

OUT FILE
F.O.

1947

Despatched 11.30 A.M.

Your telegram no. 922 [of 2nd]

Order: Jewish illegal immigration via Italy.

It appears probable that as many as 17,000 Jewish illegal immigrants may reach Palestine waters from the Black Sea in the near future, thus threatening to fill the Cyprus camps to capacity. It is, therefore, most important that none of the 28,000 displaced Jews now in Italy should be allowed to embark for Palestine within the next few months. The success of our representations to the Italian Government will be considerably influenced by the extent to which we can assist in checking the movement of Jews from Austria into Italy.

2. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will make renewed representations to your French and U.S. colleagues on the lines of the recommendations in Ruck's report. As the Krimmel Pass will now be blocked by snow, the essential points are:

(a) to induce the French to prevent ^{Jews} these from crossing the Italian frontier from their zone and to take back those who do;
(b) to induce the French to tighten control of the frontier between the U.S. and French zones;

(c) to induce the Americans to prevent ^{Jews} these from crossing into the French zone and to take back those who do.

3. I am also anxious that action should be taken to prevent misuse by A.J.D.C. and similar/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(3254) Wt. 14806/147 75,000 6/47 A & E.W.Ltd. Gp. 685

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4. I am asking H.M. Ambassadors in Paris and Washington to make similar representations to the Governments to which they are accredited.

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XXX
Grett.

JERUSALEM ~~NY~~ ---

I. I. P.

LA

3. Paragraph 3 of that telegram refers to misuse by Jewish organisations of ex-U.S. army vehicles and equipment of which following is typical instance. 500 Jews arrived at the boundary/

At the end of May

Wt.14696/147 75.000 6/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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.../...

FO
371

61850

112A

boundary between U.S. and French Zones led by
an A.J.D.C. jeep containing a man in U.S. army
uniform who threatened the Austrian gendarme
with a tommy gun. When the latter attempted
to halt the convoy. If Jewish organisations
were compelled to paint their ex-U.S. army vehicles
a different colour and to ^{dye} ~~also~~ their ex-U.S. army
uniforms, this equipment could no longer be
employed to disguise the true nature of such
convoys.

BAB3

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

113

No. 1498.

148. 1490.
28th October 1947.

D. 11.30 a.m. 29th October 1947.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371 61850**

OUT FILE

114

No. 11163

Repeated to Paris No. 2306
Rome No. 2289
Vienna No. 1499
Jerusalem No.

My telegram to Vienna No. 1498 [of 28th October:
Jewish illegal immigration].

As the largest concentration of Jews in Austria is in the United States Zone, it is essential that we should secure the co-operation of the United States authorities there. French authorities, though better disposed, are reluctant to prevent egress from their Zone or to take back Jews crossing into Italy so long as United States authorities take no steps to control movement from their zone to French zone. (See Vienna telegram No. 872). Vienna telegram No. 835 makes it clear, however, that United States co-operation will not be forthcoming without instructions from Washington.

2. This co-operation is similar to that requested in connexion with the movement of Jews between the United States and French Zones of Germany and which was refused by the United States Government (Chancery letter No. G/24/47 of 10th September refers). Although I did not then ask you to press that request, as British interests were not immediately concerned, I shall now be glad if you will make urgent representations to the United States Government on the lines indicated in paragraph 2 of my telegram to Vienna No. 1498.

3. Paragraph 3 of that telegram refers to misuse by Jewish organisations of ex-United States army vehicles and equipment of which following is typical instance. At the end of May 500 Jews arrived at the boundary between United States and French Zones led by an A.J.D.C. jeep containing a man in United States army uniform who threatened the Austrian gendarme with a tommy gun when the latter attempted to halt the convey. If Jewish organisations were compelled to paint their ex-United States army vehicles a different colour and to dye their ex-United States army uniforms, this equipment could no longer be employed to disguise the true nature of such conveys.

2 2 2

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference:- **FO** 371 61850

No. E9800/84/31

Open.

VIENNA

No.

(Date) Nov 1964

Repeat to :—

Route No 2335

German (Pol.) Dept
JB out. 31

En Clair.

Goethe.

Cypher.

Distribution :-

RECEIVED IN O.D.

3 NOV 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

Copies to :-

I.I.P.

Mr. Perry (H.O.)

OUTFILE

F. O.

1947

Despatched 10. 2. 59 M.

Important
Confidential

My telegram no 2334 to
Rome [of 31st October: Jewish
illegal immigration]

Please arrange accommodation, briefing and any documentation necessary to establish his bona fides as liaison officer for RUCKS successor PERRY, whose date of arrival in VIENNA will be notified as soon as possible.

2. I should be grateful if you would also arrange to provide him with a ^{JEEP} ~~jeep~~ or other suitable ~~transport~~ ^{vehicle}. If the French authorities agree, it would be useful if PERRY ~~were granted~~ ^{could} ~~be granted~~ ^{transmission}.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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References

371

5185

115A

JBNO v 185

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:

FO 371 61850

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OUT FILE
116

E 9800/84/31
Confidential.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO VIENNA

No.1518

1st November, 1947. D. 10.35 a.m. 2nd November,
1947.

Repeated No.2335

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No.2334 to Rome [of 31st
October: Jewish illegal immigration].

Please arrange accommodation, briefing
and any documentation necessary to establish
his bona fides as liaison officer for Ruck's
successor Perry, whose date of arrival in
Vienna will be notified as soon as possible.

2. I should be grateful if you would also
arrange to provide him with a jeep or other
suitable transport. If the French authorities
agree, it would be useful if Perry could visit
French Zone and make contact with French
officials responsible for control of frontier.

QQQ

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1				2	

Reference:-

FO

371

61850

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. 29800/84/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

ROME

Telegram.

No. 2334

(Date) NOV/51

Repeat to:

Vienna No. 1517

[]

Italian Section
JB Oct. 31

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental NO. 1

[]

RECEIVED IN C.B.

3 NOV 1947

Copies to:—

SENT TO DEPT.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

3 NOV 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

OUT FILE

F.O.,

2/11 1947

Despatched

10.30 A.M.

Important
Confidential

Your telegrams nos. 2007 and 2008
[of 18th October: Jewish illegal immigration]

As you will have seen from my
telegrams to Paris no. 2304, to Vienna
no. 1498 and to Washington no. 11163,
we are renewing our approach to the
French and U.S. authorities in an
effort to secure better co-operation in
preventing illegal frontier-crossing by Jews.
As the KRIMMEL pass from the U.S.
Zone will be closed by snow until
the spring, we are not pressing
RUCK's recommendation ^(para. 8 of his report) at
this stage.

2. As ^{fore-shadowed} in my telegram
no. 1406, Home Office can not spare
RUCK himself any longer. They have,
however, nominated a successor, PERRY,
who will leave next week. We
presume you would again prefer him
to be attached to the British Element
in Vienna and thus appear in the
guise of a liaison officer and he will,
therefore, travel via Vienna. ^{we} shall ^{you} ^{will}

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference: FO 371 61850

117

3. [Mr] Ruck ^{has called} ~~is calling~~
on Count Zoppi ^{ZOPPI} to inform
him officially of [Mr]
Perry's mission, ~~and we~~
~~shall note any suggestions~~
~~that Count Zoppi may~~
~~have to make on this~~
~~occasion.~~ ^{The whole}
^{Jewish} question of illegal
immigration has been
discussed with Count
SpFORZA and Count Zoppi
and an account will
follow by bag.

JB Nov. 1st

Bourne Zoppi
seemed satisfied
~~and made no~~ but
had no detailed
comment to make.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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	1			2	

Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

No. 2334

Repeated to Vienna No. 1517.

Your telegrams Nos. 2007 and 2008 [of October 18th: Jewish illegal immigration].

2. As foreshadowed in my telegram No. 1406, Home Office can not spare Ruck himself any longer. They have, however, nominated a successor, Perry, who will leave next week. We presume you would again prefer him to be attached to the British Element in Vienna and thus appear in the guise of a liaison officer and he will, therefore, travel via Vienna. We shall inform you of the dates of his journey and of his passport number as soon as possible.

3. Mr. Ruck has called on Count Zoppi to inform officially of Mr. Perry's Mission. Count Zoppi seemed satisfied but had no detailed comment to make. The whole question of Jewish illegal immigration has been discussed with Count Sforza and Count Zoppi and an account will follow by bag.

SSSSS

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

Reference: **FO 371 61850**

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.194

k.s.
E9800
118

50,000 AWAITING PALESTINE SHIPS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
ROME, Monday.

A concerted plan is being made to stem the flow of illegal Jewish emigration through Italy this winter. About 20,000 are now waiting in Austria, and this figure is still being swollen by movement from Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

It is estimated that in Italy there are already at least 50,000 Jewish refugees, a large proportion of whom are fanatically determined to reach Palestine. So far this year it is calculated 20,000 have entered Italy illegally from Austria.

During the peak period this summer they were crossing at the rate of 500 a week over the difficult and inadequately guarded passes at Krimml. By the end of this month these passes will be sealed by bad weather.

There is evidence that Jewish organisations are now planning to resume large-scale crossings over the Brenner and Resia passes. These afford easier transit, but they can be more effectively guarded.

Investigators who have inspected the terrain on both sides are convinced that firm and co-ordinated



action could reduce illegal traffic to a trickle this winter.

The exact number of Jewish refugees at present in Italy cannot be ascertained. Some are scattered in special Jewish settlements not directly controlled by the International Refugee Organisation. Others are billeted by private families while awaiting their chance to embark for Palestine.

Efforts to stem the traffic will be concentrated at both ends of the chain—to stop further entry from Austria and to check illegal departures from Italy for Palestine. Points of the plan are:

1—Effective sealing of the Italy-Austria frontier. The French authorities, whose zone borders the Brenner, have already agreed to take back Jews who are caught by Italian guards.

Italians are being asked to reinforce their frontier posts. Provision of more huts for guards and telephones to link them would close the gaps through which refugees poured last season.

2—Road blocks and traffic checks inside Italy. Vehicles of military type, in which Jews invariably travel, have not been stopped by the Italians.

The chief of the I.R.O. Mission in Italy has now consented to allow all vehicles bearing I.R.O. markings to be stopped and examined. During the past winter convoys of military ex-

this summer conveys of military type trucks, some with markings of the American Joint Distribution Committee, have been making journeys three times a week.

3—Tighter control of camps in Italy
The I.R.O. has decided to break up

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 61850

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It is estimated that in Italy there are already at least 50,000 Jewish refugees, a large proportion of whom are fanatically determined to reach Palestine. So far this year it is calculated 20,000 have entered Italy illegally from Austria.

There is evidence that Jewish organisations are now planning to resume large-scale crossings over the Brenner and Resia passes. These afford easier transit, but they can be more effectively guarded.

A black and white map of Italy and surrounding regions. The map shows the borders of France to the northwest, Austria to the north, and Yugoslavia to the northeast. The Adriatic Sea is to the east. Major Italian cities are labeled: Milan, Venice, Trieste, Udine, Ravenna, Bologna, Ancona, Rome, Foggia, and Bari. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates distances of 0, 50, and 100 miles. A compass rose is located in the upper right corner. A box in the upper left corner contains the text "FRENCH ZONE". A box in the upper center contains the text "KRIEMIL PASS". A box in the upper right corner contains the text "IMPASSABLE IN WINTER". A box in the center contains the text "MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY". A box in the lower left corner contains the text "JEWISH CAMP TO BE BROKEN UP". A box in the lower right corner contains the text "PALESE". The map also shows the "BRENNER PASS" and "Zagreb". The word "ITALY" is written vertically across the center of the map.

The exact number of Jewish refugees at present in Italy cannot be ascertained. Some are scattered in special Jewish settlements not directly controlled by the International Refugee Organisation. Others are billeted by private families while awaiting their chance to embark for Palestine.

1—Effective sealing of the Italy-Austria frontier. The French authorities, whose zone borders the Brenner, have already agreed to take back Jews who are caught by Italian guards.

2—Road blocks and traffic checks inside Italy. Vehicles of military type, in which Jews invariably travel, have not been stopped by the Italians.

3—Tighter control of camps in Italy. The I.R.O. has decided to break up its camp at Palese, near Bari, from which many migrations to Palestine are known to have taken place.

4—Closer police watch on Jewish camps and likely embarkation points. Already there is evidence of more vigorous action by the Italian authorities.

5—Intensified British naval patrol in the Mediterranean. Watch is being kept on all suspected ships approaching the Italian coast.

It is feared that even if the recognised Jewish organisations are induced to decrease the traffic over the Austrian frontier, attempts at illegal crossings will not be entirely checked. There are several dissident groups and private organisations sponsoring the traffic purely as a means of making money.

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Reference: **FO 371 61850**

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Registry
No. E 9800/84/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret.

Secret.

Confidential.

Restricted.

Open.

Draft.

VIENNA

~~Bruckner~~ No 1550

Rome No 2325

Telegram.

No.

(Date) Nov. 10

Repeat to:—

7/11/8/11
Finance Dept first
JB Nov. 7

~~Pro Clair.~~

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental NO. 1

RECEIVED IN G.B.

12 NOV 1947

Copies to: SENT TO DEPT.

Mr. Perry (Home Office)
Mr. Ruck (— —)

CYIPHER

F.O.

194

10/11

Despatched 4 30 P M.

119

OUT FILE

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegrams nos. 1518 to
Vienna and 2334 to Rome [of 1st
November: Jewish illegal immigration]
movements are approximately as follows:

~~Mr. Perry's~~ leaves London on
10th November, arriving Vienna on
13th Nov. and Rome on Nov. 17th. His
passport number is 764792.

2. You may make Perry
any advances he may require
to cover his personal expenses
while in Austria or Italy. In addition,
salary advances up to £20 per
month may be issued to him.
Please report sums drawn.

JB Nov. 10

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61850

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E. 9800/84/31.

Confidential.

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO VIENNA NO. 1550

ROME NO. 2375

10th November, 1947.

D. 4.30 p.m. 10th November, 1947.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegrams Nos. 1518 to Vienna and 2334 to Rome
[of 1st November: Jewish illegal immigration].

Perry's movements are approximately as follows:
Leaves London on 10th November, arriving Vienna on 13th
November and Rome on November 17th. His passport number
is 764792.

2. You may make Perry any advances he may require
to cover his personal expenses while in Austria or Italy.
In addition, salary advances up to £20 per month may be
issued to him. Please report sums drawn.

120

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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Tel. : WATerloo 8070.

Any communication on the subject
of this letter should be addressed
to :—

THE FINANCE OFFICER,
and the following number quoted :—

Your reference



121
FINANCE DIVISION,
HOME OFFICE,
CORNWALL HOUSE,
STAMFORD STREET,
LONDON, S.E.1.

5th November, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Mr. L.J. Perry,
Immigration Officer, Home Office.

With reference to our telephone conversation of to-day, I am directed by the Finance Officer for the Home Department to request that arrangements be made for the above-named officer to be advanced sums not exceeding £20 per month whilst travelling on official duty in Vienna and Rome, and I am authorised to state that such advances will be re-imbursed to the Foreign Office by this Department.

Yours faithfully,

W. Foster

J. F. Cable, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, Downing St.,
S.W.1.

28

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Cypher/OTP

E 9807

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

21 OCT

123

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS

Mr. Kay

D. 2.40.a.m. October 20th, 1947.

No. 129.

October 20th, 1947.

R. 6.00.p.m. October 20th, 1947.

Repeated to FOREIGN OFFICE NO. 171.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

Your telegram 119.

Representations have been made locally.
Authorities have alerted Mediterranean
Coastline. No news yet.

6 6 6 6 6



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1	2	3	4	5	6

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320

E

124

E 9813

1947

PALESTINE

21 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9813/84/31

Lord Kewerphall
Washington

5800

20 Oct
21

Illegal Immigration
Refer to tel 10743 (E 9446/48/G)
Ambassador wrote letter to Mr Marshall
in accordance with instructions in paper
look up matter with Mr. Lovett, who said
it was difficult to take effective action under
American law but hope to obtain
further information re Colonel Frederick C.
Schroeder

Last Paper.

9807

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9.9.1
Oct 21
(on E 9813/84/31)

(Action
completed)

9.9.1
29/10

(Index)

10/10/48

Next Paper.

9814

(Minutes.)

22/10
B.V. Oct. 27th

22/10
CSE-CABLE

Mr. Seis
Oct. 22

Now see E 9999

In P.P. Amendment Slip 28/10

In P.P. B.R.O. ltr tel 532 Saving 28/10

In P.P. B.R.O. tel ONO 543 Saving 29/10

WL 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

P.T.O.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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124A

2/6/11

La P.P. P.R.O. Brio tel 557 Saving 6/11

10/10

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125

E 9813

21 OCT

D. 9.44 p.m. 20th October 1947
R. 4.03 a.m. 21st October 1947

CCC

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FO 371 61850

E 126

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

Washington telegram to Foreign Office No.
5800 of 20th October.

Paragraph 2 line 7: please read "I shall press
for a reply.

We still hope to obtain"

Communications Department
28th October, 1947.

01110

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Reference:-

FO
371
61850

127

O.D.

INDEXED

~~8987~~ / 84 / 30
9812

27 OCT 1945

Mr. K. Barnes (4)

Reference:

○

371

61850

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Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth

128

(BY AIR MAIL)

9873 / 84 / 31 INDEXED

O.D.

F.

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 29th Oct., 1947.)

D. No. 543 SAVING SECRET.

My telegram 23rd October D. No. 532 Saving.

JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE VIA ITALY.

Since end of war, Italy has been one of main transit areas for Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine. Number of migrant Jews now in Italy and wishing to go to Palestine is estimated at 28,000 and total carrying capacity of suspect shipping in Italian ports at 13,500 persons. If PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK succeed in reaching Palestine with approximately 16,000 immigrants, Cyprus camps will be filled to capacity, and arrival of still more Jews would create critical situation.

2. Attitude of Italian Government has on the whole been reasonably satisfactory until last few weeks, when three strongly suspect ships, two of which actually embarked immigrants from Italy, were allowed to sail from Italian ports in spite of repeated representations by us.

3. We are doing all we can by representations to United States and French authorities in Austria and by loan of expert immigration officers to Italian authorities, to prevent influx of Jews into Italy. At same time now that we have stated our intention shortly to withdraw from Palestine, we are asking for co-operation of Italian Government during last few months of our administration.

Copy to:-

Foreign Office.

Mr. F.T.A. Ashton-Gwatkin
Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
Mr. J.E. Cable

1 2 3 4 5 6
 1 2
 Reference: **FO 371 61850**
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With the Compliments of the
Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth

Relati

4 NOV 1947

**OUTWARD SAVING TELEGRAM FROM
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE**

129

(BY AIR MAIL)

O.D.

E 98/3 / 84 / 3/

TO: CANADA
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH AFRICA

(GOVT.)

"

"

"

INDEXED

(Sent 3rd November, 1947)

D. No. 550 SAVING SECRET

My telegram 29th October D. No. 543 Saving.

Jewish Illegal Immigration into Palestine via Italy.

In order to reinforce local representations referred
to in my telegram under reference paragraph 3, and with a
view to preventing concentration of Jews in United States
Zone of Austria from reaching Italy, we have instructed
His Majesty's United Kingdom Ambassadors in Washington
and Paris to request United States and French Government
to tighten control of frontiers.

Copy to:-

Foreign Office

"

"

"

"

Mr. F.T.A. Ashton-Gwatkin
Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
Mr. J.E. Cable

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth
Relations

**OUTWARD SAVING TELEGRAM FROM
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE**

(BY AIR MAIL) 130

F.

9813 84 81

INDEXED

11 NOV 1947

O.D.

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 6th Nov., 1947)

D. No. 557 SAVING SECRET

My telegram 23rd October D. No. 532 Saving.

JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

His Majesty's United Kingdom Ambassador, Washington, has been informed by United States Government that all possible precautions have been taken to prevent sailing of S.S. COLONEL F.C. JOHNSON. United States Coastguard Service has been instructed to stop vessel if there are any signs of movement, and, if necessary, United States Attorney General will issue a libel (involving ship in legal proceedings to establish her bona fides) to prevent departure.

2. Lord Inverchapel has also been informed that Mr. Marshall has recently made very strong representations to leading member of Jewish community, pointing out to him that encouragement of illegal immigrant traffic was bismirching good name of United States and that if it did not stop whole policy of United States Government with regard to Palestine might be reconsidered.

Copy to:-

Foreign Office

Mr. I.A. Kirkpatrick
Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
Mr. J.G.S. Beith

1	2	3	4	5	6

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221

E

131

E 9814

21 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E 9814/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

94.
20 Oct
21 -

8 (1901) Immigrant. Ships.
Refer Panama Ct 91 (E 9602/48/9). Per states.
32 page communiqué by Panamanian Ministry Foreign
affairs for press and declaring that British
request to look at Canal and as single
concrete evidence fed has presented
determine veracity of charges. Therefore
Registration cannot be cancelled.

Last Paper.

9813

(Minutes.)

References.

N.A. [Signature] 24/10.
New [Signature] 24/10.
[Signature] 24/10.

[Signature] 22/10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
Oct 24

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

[Signature] 24/10

[Signature] 10/10/48

Next Paper.

E 9829

WL 24772/717 17895 10/33 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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E 132

21 OCT

FILES.

Mr. Greenway
No. 84

D. 4.40 p.m. 20th October 1947
R. 2 a.m. 21st October 1947.

20th October 1947.

IMMEDIATE.

My telegram No. 91.

Yesterday's press states that 3 1/2 page communiqué by Panamanian Ministry Foreign Affairs has been issued declaring that British request lacked legal basis and no single concrete evidence had been presented to determine veracity of charges. Registration of President Warfield, Trade Winds, Paducah, Northlands, Pan York, Pan Crescent, cannot therefore be cancelled. I have not yet been given courtesy of any reply.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

V V V



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		1						2			

Reference:-

FQ 371 / 61850

322

1947

E

PALESTINE

133

E 9829

22 OCT

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

1E9829/84/21

40 Minute

m. Beil.

17 Oct

22 ~

"Pan American" and "Pan York"
Spoke to Texas Mariner about fact that
ships were still flying Panamanian flags,
suggested asking Turkish Govt to stop ships
when passing through straits. If ships
were found to be crowded with Jews,
Panamanian Govt would then have proof
of illegal immigration.

Last Paper

9814

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

22/10

(Action completed)

(Index)

Y E 23/10

(Index) ~~1/8/48~~

Next Paper

9830

38538

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

134 *encl*

E 9829

"PAN CRESCENT" and "PAN YORK".

22 OCT

I had an opportunity yesterday to speak severely to Señor Morales, the Panamanian Consul General, about the fact that these two ships were still flying the Panamanian flag. He expressed great regret that his Government had not felt able to cancel registration, and asked whether there was anything else he could do to help.

There is one further possibility which has occurred to me. The cancellation of Panamanian registry would not greatly help us to stop these ships. A ship without a national flag is not debarred from passing the Straits, and it is very unlikely that the Bulgarian or Roumanian Governments would hold the ships for that reason, if they were not prepared to do so already. The Panamanian Government have said that they cannot cancel registration without proof of illegal immigration; therefore the only useful action they could now take would be to ask the Turkish Government officially to require these two ships to stop for inspection when they pass the Straits. If the ships, as is likely, are crowded with Jews without satisfactory papers of destination, the Panamanian Government would then have the necessary proof, and would be bound either to cancel registration or take some more useful action like ordering the ships back to their port of departure.

I have had in mind in this connection the Secretary of State's decision that we should not press the Turkish Government further on our own account in this matter. If, however, we act as proposed above, it will be the Panamanian Government who press the Turkish Government.

I think this is just worth trying as a last resort in a desperate situation. I have consulted with the Admiralty on a departmental level and they agree.

J. G. S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

17th October, 1947.

In the first place I doubt whether the Turkish Government would have the necessary authority under Turkish law to inspect the ships as suggested. However that is a matter for the Turkish Government to decide. If they acted at the request of the Panamanian Government they would

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

The Panamanian Govt. shd be asked to make up their mind in advance what action they wd take on receipt of proof and request the Turkish Govt. in advance to cooperate with them in this action.

Mr Vincent Evans

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1. I think be covered so far as international law is concerned.
2. Secondly I doubt whether the Government of Panama could legally exercise such control of its vessels abroad as to order them to return to their port of departure and enforce the order and it is even more doubtful whether the Turkish Government could legally cooperate in the enforcement of the order by any effective measures. There are however matters of Panamanian law and Turkish law respectively.
3. If the registration of the vessels was cancelled they would lose their right under the Montreux Convention to pass through the Straits since that right is only given to merchant vessels "under any flag" which must I think mean the flag of a State ^{recognized} under international law. I agree however that a flagless vessel is not debarred from passing through the Straits but the Turks might possibly be persuaded to take some action against it which would prevent it passing through and there might even be some provision in the Turkish Regulations governing the Straits or navigation in Turkish waters which would enable them to take appropriate measures against the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" once those ships had lost their Panamanian registration cancelled.

W. G. Brown
17/10.

In the light of Mr Evans' minute I am inclined to drop this idea

R. J. Smith
Oct. 18
20/10

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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223

1947

E

E 9830

22 OCT

135

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received

in Registry

E9830/84/31

40 minute

M. Beitz.

16 Oct.

22 -

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Prof. I. held a meeting on Oct 15 to discuss
illegal immigration. He said that
action should be taken,

Last Paper

9829

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

C.E. CABLER

22/10

JB out. 22

In P.P. T. Nigham to M. Beitz 46021/47 27/10
 - 80 tel 2428 to P. Nigham 11/10
 - P. Nigham tel 1908 12/10
 - 40 minute M. Beitz. 27/10 -

(Action
completed)

(Index)

L. E. 22/10

M. Beitz 22/10

Next Paper

9832

32538

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

INDEXED

Mr. Burrows.

I attach a semi-official letter from the Colonial Office enclosing a draft telegram to the High Commissioner for Palestine replying to a telegram by the latter asking what has been the result of ministerial consideration of the illegal immigration position. The High Commissioner's latest telegram No. 1960 has not been sent to us but it is apparently just a request for a follow up of Colonial Office telegram No. 2428.

I think that the draft telegram, as now amended (see additions in ink), can have our concurrence. The most important point of principle arises at the beginning of paragraph 4. At the Ministerial meeting on October 15 the Colonial Office put forward the suggestion that we should consider informing the Arab States at a given moment that we could no longer control illegal immigration. It was quite clear to me at the meeting that the Secretary of State did no more than note this suggestion, which is one that the Foreign Office could hardly accept. I would refer in this connexion to the Note prepared for the Secretary of State as a result of the meeting which goes no further than to say that the Secretary of State noted the Colonial Office proposal, and later points out that it is axiomatic that while His Majesty's Government administer Palestine they must also administer the immigration laws of the country. If we cannot control immigration we have no right to remain as administering authority.

I have submitted this point now because it is just possible that the draft telegram, as amended by us, may be questioned at an Under-Secretarial level in the Colonial Office and they may return to the charge with us.

J. G. S. Beith

J.G.S.Beith.

27th October, 1947.

P. J. J. J.
✓ 28/x

SNB

✓ 28 X

Tel. has been sent

JB out. 30

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

E9830/84/31

2nd para. (1) } E9830
3rd para. (2)

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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137
erster E

JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE.

The Secretary of State held a meeting on October 15th to discuss a paper submitted by the Official Committee on Jewish Illegal Immigration. As a result of the discussion the Secretary of State directed that the following action should be taken:-

- (a) a telegram should be sent to Washington asking the Ambassador to convey a message to Mr. Marshall about the SS "FREDERICK C. JOHNSON", a ship which is believed to be fitting out for the traffic at Norfolk. A draft has been submitted.
- (b) telegrams should be sent to Sofia and Bucharest requesting H.M. Representatives to make further representations to the Bulgarian and Roumanian Governments with regard to the importance of preventing the "PAN CRESCENT" and "PAN YORK" from loading illegal immigrants and leaving port. The telegrams have been sent off.

2. In the paper under discussion the Official Committee asked for guidance on three points :-

- (1) does His Majesty's Government's policy regarding immigration into Palestine still stand i.e. is it intended to maintain the existing legal quota of 1500 a month and to intern outside Palestine any illegal immigrants arriving in Palestine waters ? It was agreed that this policy stood for the present. The Colonial Office suggested that it might be possible to tell the United Nations or the Arab Governments that, once Cyprus was full, we could do no more to control illegal immigration. The Secretary of State

noted/

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(2) whether in an emergency the full legal quota could be used for emptying the Cyprus camps ? The Secretary of State did not agree to this suggestion since it involved discrimination against Jews who had waited patiently in Europe (and particularly in the British Zone of Germany) for their turn in the queue.

(3) whether additional accommodation for interning illegal immigrants should be constructed. The Secretary of State indicated that the Colonial Office should be prepared to accommodate further illegal immigrants, even at the cost of overcrowding in the existing camps in Cyprus. Failing that accommodation must be found elsewhere in Colonial territory. The Colonial Office state, that no accommodation, even makeshift, could be prepared in time to be of use either in Cyprus or elsewhere. There appears to be a need for an overriding decision on this point.

(a) it is axiomatic that, so long as His Majesty's
Government /

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Government exercise authority in Palestine, they must enforce the immigration laws of the country. They will only be absolved from this responsibility when, His Majesty's Government formally terminate their responsibility for the administration of the country upon the withdrawal of the Administration.

- (b) we cannot foresee at what date the situation described under (a) will arise, but it is unlikely to occur for some months. During this period the enforcement of the Palestine immigration laws will, at the present pace of arrival, land us with many thousands more Jewish illegal immigrants. The illegal immigrants in the Cyprus camps are at present paid for by the Palestine Government at a cost of about £2½ millions a year, but when we leave Palestine they and any other internees will have to be paid for from United Kingdom funds, unless we can make the United Nations responsible for them as part of the problem of the displaced Jews in Europe in consequence of action taken at United Nations on the 6th general recommendation of U.N.E.S.C.O.P..
- (c) the only alternative to the policy of interning illegal immigrants is to repel them by naval action such as the laying of a mine field, or by shooting at and possibly sinking illegal immigrant ships. Apart from the expense and delay involved in laying a mine field, mining, in the same way as shooting by naval units, would almost inevitably, in view of the determined temper of the Jews, involve serious loss of life. I doubt whether this would be worth accepting at the present late stage in the Mandate.

(d) the /

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(d) the only practicable policy appears to be, therefore to expedite arrangements for withdrawal in order to cut down as far as possible the period during which we continue to be responsible for interning illegal immigrants. Jews interned by us are quite likely to be on our hands for some time, as it is not clear how or when we shall get rid of them if a troubled period in Palestine follows our withdrawal.

J. G. S. Beith
(J.G.S. BEITH)

16th October, 1947.

Officer in Charge Oct 17

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TOP SECRET

INDEXED

139

Church House,
Gt. Smith St.,
London, S.W. 1.

My Reference.....76021/47.

October 27, 1947.

Your Reference.....

Dear John

Sir Alan Cunningham has asked us to let him know the outcome of the Ministerial discussions foreshadowed in paragraph 1 of Trafford Smith's personal telegram No. 2428 of October 11.

For convenience of reference I enclose a copy of that telegram and the High Commissioner's reply No. 1908.

I enclose a draft which has not yet been agreed by higher authority in the Colonial Office. Before sending it forward here I should be glad of Foreign Office comment.

Yours

John D. Higham

(J.D. Higham)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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Reference:-

FO

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61850

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Mr. Higham

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S:

Secretary of State:

Your Reference.....

DRAFT. TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

No.

Addressed High Commissioner for
Palestine.
Repeated UKDEL for Martin.

CYPHER

HIGH COMMISSIONER,
PALESTINE.

Repeated to:
UKDEL for Martin. (210)

Your telegrams No. 1908 Illegal

Immigration and 1960 (not to UKDEL).

Problem of illegal immigration was discussed informally with Foreign Secretary and as a result the strongest representations have been made to Bulgaria and Roumania in an attempt to stop the embarkation of Jews on PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT. Foreign Secretary has also instructed H.M. Ambassador in Washington to raise with Mr Marshall the potential threat of S.S. COLONEL FREDERICK JOHNSON, now at Norfolk, Virginia, which is the only large ship at present under deep suspicion. Foreign Secretary also intends to press Count Sforza ~~strongly~~ on illegal immigration during latter's forthcoming visit to London next week.

2. It is now clear from reports from C.-in-C. M.E.L.F. that the accommodation situation in Cyprus is not as serious as indicated in Commissioner for Jewish Camps telegram No. 14. Huts or tents and accommodation stores will be available for the full 34,000 by the end of

FURTHER ACTION.

(195) pn
76021/48

/October

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Reference: **FO 371 61850**

was felt to be grossly unfair to Jews in Europe awaiting their turn under the legal quota and it was agreed that for the present

/to

141

C. O.

Mr. _____
Mr. _____
Mr. _____
Mr. _____
Mr. _____

Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. Si
Secretary of State;

Your Reference _____

DRAFT.

con. sheet one.

to the handling of illegal immigration,
or alternatively, that the Arab States should be
told that once Cyprus is full, we could no
longer continue to hold back the flood of
immigrants. ~~[No decision has yet been reached]~~

there are strong

but there are, as you know, several resolutions
on illegal immigration now before the ad hoc
Committee of Palestine which are likely to be
considered this week. It is not ^{likely} likely that
any very timely or effective action will result.

*This proposal was noted
by the Foreign Secretary but
there are naturally very
strong objections to any
approach to the Arab States
on these lines.*

It is understood, however, that the Secretary of
State hopes to have the opportunity to make a
full statement before the United Nations on this
subject. (UKDEL's telegram No. 3030 refers).

5. For the present therefore we could do no more
than await developments and exercise the utmost
vigilance and energy in preventing the departure
of Jews from Europe. The situation is being
kept under constant review and it is realised that
any serious deterioration in the illegal
immigration situation would almost certainly,
in the last resort, have to be taken into account
in determining the date of the withdrawal of
civil administration in Palestine.

FURTHER ACTION.

SECR.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

142

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th October, 1947.

R. 12th " " 23.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1908 Top Secret.

Reference No. 2428 from the Colonial Office following to United Kingdom Delegation.

Personal for the Secretary of State and to the Colonial Office from Cunningham.

I thoroughly dislike both alternatives mentioned in paragraph 3 of your telegram which, as you say, admits defeat, but if one has to be adopted, I should much prefer (b) which, I believe, would cause the Jews grave embarrassment. They are in no position to accept and absorb 16,000 immigrants arriving at approximately the same time. It would mean the stoppage of all other quotas which would not suit Cyprus, but decision as to the future of the Jews now in Cyprus rests with the United Nations.

2. It should not be overlooked that cost of deportation and maintenance in Cyprus of these 16,000 may ultimately fall on the British taxpayer, since liability already placed on Palestine Government in respect of illegal immigration, together with other commitments, will exceed our assets, should we withdraw. It is difficult to see why either British or Arab taxpayer should be called to meet expenditure in this connection.

3. If we must admit defeat (and failure is not at this end) and follow one of the courses you suggest, I would ask again whether, to avoid obvious disadvantages, it could not be arranged that United Nations, as a matter of urgency, should

request/

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(Copies to Cypher Section, Foreign Office for transmission to New York)

Distributed to: -

R. 243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Lt. Col. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin

Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Fitzgerald

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Distributed to: -

R.243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Lt. Col. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Fitzgerald

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rejection

FO 371 61850

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INDEXED

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

IMPORTANT

Addressed High Commissioner Palestine.
Repeated UKDEL New York for Martin.

High Commissioner suggested in his Top Secret and Personal telegram No. 1848 that future policy regarding illegal immigration should be reconsidered at an early date. Ministers are expected to review problem early next week, but as you will appreciate the question is inextricably bound up with the more general issues of Palestine policy. It is clear from recent telegrams from Sofia and Bucharest that there is little hope of any co-operation from Bulgaria and Roumania which are, at the moment, the chief danger spots, and that we cannot count on any significant delay in the departure of illegal immigrant ships from Black Sea ports as a result of diplomatic pressure. We have virtually abandoned any hope of refoulement to a Black Sea port although there is still a chance that Italy may be more amenable. The Turks claim that they have no legal grounds for preventing or delaying the passage of illegal immigrant ships through the Straits and are unwilling to do anything which would embarrass them in their relations with Russia or which would leave them with large numbers of Jews on their hands.

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Reference:-

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Reference:

FO 371 61850

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5. /

FO 371 61850

No. 282 ✓
(27/81/47)

E 9832

146

HIS Majesty's Minister
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of State for
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

at Sofia 22 OCT

British Legation,

Sofia

3rd October, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence:

Sofia telegram No. 1244 to Foreign Office of October 2nd

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Record of interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs 2nd October 1947, together with Notes Verbale Nos. 159, 164, 180, 193 to M.F.A. and No. 71289- 20-II from M.F.A.	Illegal Jewish Immigration into Palestine.
Copy of record to Bucharest No. 7	

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Illegal Jewish Immigration into Palestine

Reference:

FO

371

6185

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8. The Minister for Foreign Affairs tried to take refuge in the possibility of action by ourselves on the high seas against the ships concerned. He contended that the Bulgarian Government could not refuse facilities to any ship which came here. Was there no international body which could prevent this traffic or restrain the vessels taking part in it? I observed that the vessels concerned were careful to keep out of our jurisdiction and that no action could be taken against them by us until they attempted to land illegal immigrants. But the existence of this traffic was so widely organised and so widely known that it was up to every Government which was warned about ships engaging in it within their jurisdiction to take exceptional measures and exceptional precautions. For instance it was surely legitimate to confirm with the appropriate Government the truth of statements of persons trying to embark on suspect ships as regards their destination. For example, it had been suggested that persons embarking on the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" had valid visas for one of a number of countries, e.g. Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt (M. Doitchew said that Iran had been included in error). It was most improbable that any of these countries would admit Jews and surely steps could have been taken to find out.

9. The Minister for Foreign Affairs objected that it would have been difficult for the Bulgarian Government to take this step with most of the countries concerned, e.g. Syria, the Lebanon and Egypt with whom they had no direct diplomatic relations.

10. I remarked that Anglo/Bulgarian relations were at present extremely bad and I hoped that the Bulgarian Government were not going to add yet another difficulty over Palestine immigration. Primarily, however, this was not an Anglo/Bulgarian question. It was a matter in which both His Majesty's Government and the Bulgarian Government had international responsibility and I hoped we could find a basis of co-operation. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had put forward various difficulties. But where there was a will there was a way. If the Bulgarian Government wanted an enquiry made as to whether certain Jews had in fact permission to enter a country with which Bulgaria was not in full relations I should be only too glad to make the enquiry for them if only they would give me the facts.

11. The Minister for Foreign Affairs agreed that this was an international question and that it was desirable to find a solution within the frame work of international practice. But what would be the fate of these immigrants if the Bulgarian Government were not to allow them to proceed? Where did they come from and could they be sent back? I said that I had no idea where they came from originally but the warnings we had given to the Bulgarian Government were based on information that several trainloads had come in from Roumania. It looked as though there was a definite plan to use Bulgaria as a channel for this traffic. Why should Bulgaria allow herself to be used in this way? Could she not prevent the entry of these people into Bulgaria?

12. The Minister for Foreign Affairs seemed to think there was something in this last suggestion and said he could study the matter.

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14. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he must study the question. It was evidently much more complicated than he had realised, but I could rest assured that he would study it with a sincere desire to avoid misunderstandings. I said, on my side, I was ready to give all the information and help I could and I again stressed that the "Pan Crescent" was almost here. The Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed the fervent hope that she might go to Roumania and thus spare him a difficult problem.

2nd October 1947

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Note Verbale No. 159
(27/10/47)

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

The Office of the British Political Representative presents its compliments to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the Ministry's Note No. 34195-37-1 of the 24th August 1946, has the honour, on instructions from the Foreign Office, to inform the Ministry that the ship "Paducah", which is suspected of being engaged in the transport of illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine, is reported to be on her way into the Black Sea.

2. Since it is possible that the "Paducah" may attempt to embark Jewish illegal immigrants from Bulgaria, the Office of the British Political Representative would be grateful if the competent Bulgarian authorities would take precautions against clandestine embarkation, and detain the ship if she puts into port either for this purpose or for the purpose of obtaining fuel oil, of which she may be running short and supplies of which it is hoped may be refused by the competent Bulgarian authorities if asked for.

3. The Office of the British Political Representative takes this opportunity to renew to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of its high consideration.

Office of the British
Political Representative,

Sofia.

20th August 1947

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

The Office of the British Political Representative takes this opportunity to renew to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of its high consideration.

Sofia.

27th August 1947

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Reference: **FO** 371 61850

152

No. 71289-20-II

En réponse aux notes verbales Nos. 159 du 20 août 1947 et 164 du 27 août 1947, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et des Cultes a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de la Représentation Politique de Grande-Bretagne que des mesures adéquates ont été tout de suite prises par les autorités bulgares compétentes afin que soient prohibés tous les débarquements et embarquements qui pourraient avoir lieu à la suite d l'arrivée à Varna du bateau "Paducah" battant pavillon panamien. Le bateau en question a fait escale à Varna le 22 août courant et n a visité antérieurement que le port de Baltchik, où il a jeté d'ancre pour une durée de six heures sans demander quoi que ce soit aux autorités de ce port.

— Les autorités du port de Varna ont reçu la prescription de se tenir strictement aux règles de la pratique en usage dans de pareils cas.

Le Ministère saisit cette occasion pour réitérer à la Représentation Politique de Grande-Bretagne les assurances de sa haute considération.

Sofia, le 2 septembre 1947.

A la Representation Politique
de Grande-Bretagne,

En ville

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1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61850

153

urgent

2. His Majesty's Legation are now informed both that a considerable number of would-be Jewish illegal immigrants have left Bucharest for a Bulgarian port and that the s.s. "Northlands" is at present at Bourgas.

3. His Majesty's Legation would therefore be grateful if the Ministry would be so good as to give an assurance, similar to that given orally by the Acting Secretary-General of the Ministry on September 2nd to Mr. Tollinton in the case of the s.s. "Paducah", to the effect that no persons will be allowed to embark in the s.s. "Northlands" at a Bulgarian port.

His Majesty's Legation take this opportunity to renew to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of its high consideration.

British Legation,
Sofia.

24th September 1947

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Reference: **FO 371** **61850**

1947

E

154

E 9833

PALESTINE

22 OCT

Registry Number } E9833/84/31.
 FROM
 No. *M. H. H. - Bennett*
 Dated *Sofia.*
 Received in Registry } 288
 11 Oct
 22

Illegal Immigration.
 Refer Sofia despatch 282 (E9832/84/21)
 Transmits copy of Note Verbale 257 of 11 Oct
 to Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 re embarkation of Jews from Bulgarian
 Port aboard "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent".

Last Paper

9832

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Hephham. 80
 Robertson 11.5.
 Entered. 10.11.47
 Oct 29
 (with E9832)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

9846

(Minutes.)

11.11.47 Copies to: *10.11.47*
 Please see also E9832 *7.11.47* *submit* *Office* } *usual*
names

Southam Dept
10.11.47
30/10

22/10

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Reference:

FO 371

61850

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No. 288 ✓
(27/107/47)

HIS Majesty's Minister at Sofia
presents his compliments to H. M. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British... Legation,.....
..... Sofia.....

E 9833

22 OCT

Reference to previous correspondence:

Sofia despatch no. 282 of 3 Oct.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy Note Verbale No. 257 dated 11/10/47 to Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Illegal Jewish Immigrants.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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Note Verbale
No. 257
(27/10/47)

His Britannic Majesty's Legation present their compliments to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to paragraph 6 of their Note Verbale No. 257 of October 1st, have the honour to inform the Ministry that on October 1st the "Pan Crescent" reached Constantza where she is reported to be engaged in embarking a considerable number of would-be illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine. It is possible that after leaving Constantza this vessel may attempt to embark additional Jewish immigrants from Bulgarian ports.

2. Furthermore, the "Pan York" which is the sister ship of the "Pan Crescent" entered the Dardanelles from the Aegean Sea on the night of October 8th/9th and the Legation have been instructed to warn the Bulgarian Government of the possibility that she may attempt to enter a Bulgarian port for the purpose of engaging in similar illicit activities.

3. Both ships are capable of carrying a large number of persons and the attempt to land them in Palestine will seriously complicate an already grave situation there.

4. The Legation accordingly have the honour to invite the Ministry to take immediate and effective precautions against the embarkation on either ship in Bulgarian ports of would-be illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The Legation trusts that the Bulgarian Government will also be willing to deny fuel and other facilities to these ships.

His Britannic Majesty's Legation take this opportunity to renew to the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their high consideration.

British Legation,
Sofia.

11th October 1947

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61850**

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E

157

E 9846

PALESTINE

22 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9846/84/31

W. Tolman
Bucharest

1184

20, Oct

22 -

Illegal Immigration.

Suggests may be able to render this help by the judicious use of Radio Publicity. If, B.B.C. would broadcast in the language of the country concerned, account of preparation for embarkation etc. news would become generally known, and it would be difficult for the authorities to deny all knowledge of matter.

Last Paper.

9833

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9, J.P.P. (out 9814)
Oct, 24

apt. Bhamery
Bucharest

Oct. 31

9, Legation - O.
Robertson, 15
Evening 20/10
Next 1

(Action
completed.)

J.E.M. 10/11

(Index)

10/11
10/11

Next Paper.

E 9865

(Minutes.)

This proposal was discussed by the Working Party on Jewish illegal immigration at their meeting on 22nd October. They approved of the idea and suggested that a publicity campaign on the "Pan-Brevent" and "Pan Yeh" might be started on the B.B.C. European service. Some sailors have already deserted from both ships.

Inf. Policy Dept. (Mr. Rennie)

Southern Dept. N.D.H. Good!

New Dept. 27/10. 28/10.

23/10
(C.E. CABLE)

Perhaps Mr Rennie would get in touch through the usual channels with M.M.S. and Co., if his dept. agree with this idea?

J Bort 23

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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157A

0182 3

I have discussed this with MIS and BBC European Service. The latter are going to do all they can to make the crews unhappy.

T.V. Rennie 23/10
RENNIE

The European Service of the BBC (including Romanian Transmission) has already given good coverage to all stories of illegal immigrant ships as they have arisen, including the two "bar's". It is a subject on which they are at pains to spread themselves whenever they get a firm news-pig on which to hang story and comment. They will continue to do so as occasion arises.

Shaw
(P. F. Shaw) 27/10

Mr Cable

Oct. 28

Letter to Bucharest

Inf. Policy Dept. } 20/10/11
News Dept. } a/a

29/10

L.P.P. 2.0 minute. T.O. Rennie 12/11

14/11

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

E 9846

22 OCT

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

Cypher/OTP

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman, D. 8.45a.m. 21st October, 1947.
No. 1184
20th October, 1947. R. 10.17 a.m. 21st October, 1947.

Repeated to Angora, Sofia, Moscow, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, B.M.E.O. Cairo and Jerusalem.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

It has occurred to me that we may be able to hinder this traffic by the judicious use of radio publicity.

2. If, for instance, B.B.C. would broadcast in the language of the country concerned accounts of preparations for embarkation etc., news would become generally known and it would be far more difficult for the authorities to deny all knowledge of the matter. Unless they protested against B.B.C. transmission they would in fact be acknowledging its accuracy.

3. It is very possible that sailors are signed on for these ships under false pretences. In this case the Master may have trouble with them if they learnt from B.B.C. the true destination of their vessel and if emphasis were laid on difficulties and possible dangers which they would encounter by becoming involved in this illegal traffic.

Foreign Office please pass to Angora, Moscow, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 37, 128, 10, 22 and 61 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora, Moscow and B.M.E.O. Cairo, and copies sent to Admiralty and Colonial Office for transmission to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Jerusalem respectively].

QQQ

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61850

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As you well know, the problem in publicising the activities of the two "Pan" ships is greatly complicated by the fact that they have been regarded as "unboardable". It is clearly not a profitable line to point out that this time the organisers of the traffic have obtained two ships which are eminently suitable from their point of view.. It is extremely hard to give much detail about the "Pan" ships without drawing attention to the increasing efficiency of those engaged in illegal immigration.

This has not however in any way prevented us from impressing upon the prospective passengers and the crews of these ships the risks which they were likely to run.

✓
separate work
HB Nov 13

(J.O. REMNIE)
12th November, 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371 61850**

316d. 160

~~Top Secret.~~

~~Secret.~~

Confidential.

~~Restricted.~~

Open.

Draft.

Buchanan & Company
from
Eastern Dept.

~~Copies to:~~

C. J.

M.I.S

Cabinet Office

Usual
names

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION.

30 OCT 1947

SENT TO
TYPE

30/0

DESPATCHED

31/10

Dear Conway,

In your telegram no. 1184 you suggested that the European service of the B.B.C. might be employed for judicious publicity on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

1. The European service of the B.B.C. (including their Romanian transmissions) have, of course, already ~~started~~ broadcast reports about illegal immigrant ships, including the "Pan Brenent" and "Pan York". We have now put ^{to them} your suggestion about discouraging the crews of such ships and they have promised to do their best.

/3.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489—144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

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References

374

61850

3. We should be
grateful for your comments
on their broadcasts and for
any detailed suggestions you
may wish to make.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

[Signature]
29/10

160A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850					

OUT FILE

161

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

31st October, 1947.

(E 9846/84/31)

Confidential

Dear Chancery,

In your telegram No. 1184 you suggested that the European service of the British Broadcasting Corporation might be employed for judicious publicity on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

2. The European service of the B.B.C. (including their Roumanian transmissions) have, of course, already broadcast reports about illegal immigrant ships, including the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York". We have now put to them your suggestion about discouraging the crews of such ships and they have promised to do their best.

3. We should be grateful for your comments on their broadcasts and for any detailed suggestions you may wish to make,

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Bucharest.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group Fo

Class 371

Piece 61850

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 9865/84/31

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E
Kof

British.....Legation.....
Bucharest.....

E 9867

23h October, 1947.

Foreign Office telegram 1012 of 30th Sept.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>Note Verbale No. 120 (349/126/47) from the British Legation, Bucharest, to the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Alleged facilities being granted to illeg- al emigration on PAN CRESCENT: requesting denial or immediate action.</p>

reference:

FO 371 61850

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E

E 9869

i 23 OCT

PALESTINE

1E98(7/84/31

FROM

Emilienne

No.

Paris

Dated

11/10/16

Received
in Registry

11 Oct

23 ~

SS Pan York

Transmit copy of letter from E. G. Munneller
to H. Arthur Clarke, Paris, Oct 10, Referring
to A.O. to Paris 2142 (E/G)

discovered preparations being made to
smuggle illegal immigrants on "Pan York"
over the Atlantic.

Last Paper

9867

References

E9046/48/9.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 Higham. PO.

~~Robertson M.F.S.
Covered back off~~

✓ ~~not~~
Nov. 1st

(Minutes.)

Copies to:

C. O.

M.T.S

Cabinet Office

usual

none

This is a very good letter and I think the points made in paras. 5 and 7 ought to be taken up with the French Govt.

~~Western Dept.~~

[Signature]
CJ. E. CABLE

23/10

Will you write a line to
Mr Crossley, then? 12

Sept. 27

Is not the point covered by E-10249/G?

(Action completed)

(Index)

LEW/11

1954

Next Paper

E9937

39538



Enter E - Palestine

BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

16/10/47
167

E 9869

23 OCT

*With the Compliments
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

*J. E. Cable Esq.
Eastern Department
Foreign Office*

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61850

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SEK/gw
Secret.
By Bag.

2- When the "PAN YORK" arrived on 2nd October, we called at the Préfecture and informed them of our suspicions, reminding them that on a previous occasion we had notified this ship to them as suspect. They promised to investigate. We made a similar approach to the Mercantile Marine authorities. I also brought the presence of the "PAN YORK", unofficially to the knowledge of Rear-Admiral Tanguy, the Senior French Naval Officer, as his department had been, unofficially, very helpful to us when the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" was waiting to leave Port-de-Bouc. We also put the ship under observation to the best of our ability.

4- On the evening of October 3rd we called again at the Préfecture to ascertain the result of our representations. We learned that the ship was visited on arrival by Customs and Police authorities, who found nothing suspicious, that she had taken on board an unspecified quantity of fuel oil and 148 tons of American provisions and had just left for Sfax. (On our return to the Consulate our observer confirmed the departure.) The Préfecture seemed confident that the ship had gone to Italy, but this may have been mere guess-work, and were inclined to pat themselves on the back because no passengers had embarked at Marseilles. We pointed out the danger, from our point of view, of a ship taking on board sufficient fuel and stores to enable her to take on clandestine passengers at some other point without delay. In any case, I do not anticipate any large scale embarkations at Marseilles. The docks here are a closed area, and a special pass is required to enter. Consequently any clandestine embarkation on a large scale would imply large scale collusion on the part of the local authorities.

H. Ashley Clarke Esq., C.M.G.,
British Embassy,
Paris.

and/..2..

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Reference:

FO 371 61850

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and tinned milk are incorporated in the ration-pool and distributed to the public.

6- Both Admiral Tanguy and the Préfecture informed us that one of H.M. Ships was waiting off Marseilles outside the three mile limit. We knew from Malta that H.M.S. "CHIVALROUS" had shadowed the "PAN YORK" as far as territorial waters, but we did not know that she was waiting outside.

7- Thus, as you see, the position is far from satisfactory. Here is a ship, notified to the French as suspect, which managed to take on fuel and 148 tons of food. If, as we fear, the food consists of "iron rations" like sugar, coffee, corned beef and tinned milk, there is enough on board to feed a lot of people. According to information given to me by the Commander-in-Chief, the centre of clandestine embarkation has shifted East, but if the French are going to allow the ships to fuel and take on supplies they will obviously facilitate the traffic. I do not know whether it will be possible for you to persuade the French Government to withhold all supplies from ships on our Suspect List. They might be disposed to do so in view of the disorders at various points in N.E. France reported by the press as caused by the export of sugar from France. At all events, it seems to me reasonable for them to limit such supplies to the quantity required by a crew to see them to the next port-of-call. The quantity of food required by a crew of, say, thirty to take the "PAN YORK" to Sfax would not amount to much.

8- Enclosed are extra copies in case you wish to copy this letter to the Foreign Office. If there is no objection, I should like you to send a copy to the Admiralty in view of the Commander-in-Chief's special interest in this ship reported above in the first paragraph.

Yours ever,

Done via Naval Attache.

S.E.KAY
15/10.

(S.E.KAY)

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E 9937

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1947

PALESTINE

24 OCT

Registry
Number

E9937/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Ruff Cooper

No.

Paris

Dated

980

Received
in Registry23 Oct
24Illegal Immigrant Ship.

Feldman stopped 15 miles west of Cape Bonre with engine defect, being repaired by party in launch from San Remo. May have loaded Jews from French territory looking for south travel for further passengers. Giovanni Albano said to have loaded 200 at Marseilles 10 miles south of Trepia 19/20 and said to be proceeding to Marseilles bank to disembark.

Last Paper.

9869

(Minutes.)

24/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9.10
Oct. 29
(on E9755)

(Action
completed.)

12/25/10

(Index.)

19/11/45

Next Paper.

E 4953

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Reference: FO 371 / 61850

Cypher/OTP

FILES

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper
No. 980
23rd October, 1947

D. 5.13 p.m. 23rd October, 1947
R. 6.48 p.m. 23rd October, 1947

IMMEDIATE

Please pass following to Admiralty for Commander in Chief Mediterranean.

Addressed Commander in Chief Mediterranean. (Admiralty please pass) information Admiralty.

From British Naval Attaché Paris.

SECRET

Jewish immigration.

Following reports received from secret sources in Rome. Reliability cannot be checked.

2. Yilderan stopped 15 miles west of Cape Corse with engine defects, being repaired by party in launch from San Remo. May have loaded Jews from Levanto 15 miles north of Porto Venere. Possibly heading for south France for further passengers.

3. Giovanni Maria said to have loaded 200 at Marignella 10 miles south of Spezia October 19/20 and to be proceeding to Monte Carlo to complete.

[Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Commander in Chief Mediterranean].
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E 9937
24 OCT



331

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E 9953

172

PALESTINE

24 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9953/84/31

P. P. Marseilles

174

23 Oct

24

Yildirim

Yildirim was on Oct 22 making for Strait
of Bonifacio. Her engine was broken down
and she was proceeding under sail. Five to
seven charted Danish salvage vessel Freja
lying at Marseilles to proceed and take
in tow to Port de Keruel.

MISSISSIPPI 130

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

9957

References.

g. P. P. Marseilles tel 175, Addressed Paris
131 23/10.

Referred to Mire

24/10

(Print.)

[Rptd. Nice (How disposed of.)
no. 18 24 Oct]

8, 8.9.1.

8, 8.9.1. 8.9.1.

✓ Oct 29
(on E 9755)

[Marseilles 175
Rptd. Nice 19
24 Oct.]

(Action
completed.)

7 Oct 29/10

(Index.)

16/8/48

Next Paper.

9978

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61850

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Cypher OTP

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS

E 9953
DEPARTMENTAL No. 1
24 OCT

His Majesty's Consul-General

No. 170

D. 7.05 p.m. 23rd October 1947.

23rd October 1947. R. 11.30 p.m. 23rd October 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 174

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

Yild[grp.undec.] in was on October 22nd making for Straits of Bonifacio. Her engines have broken down and she is now proceeding under sail. Ginesta have chartered Danish salvage vessel Froja lying at Marseilles to proceed and take her in tow to Porto Torres. Yild[grp.undec.] is reported to have short-wave wireless transmitter. She has no passengers on board. Malta informed.

Foreign Office please repeat to Rome.

[Repeated to Rome]

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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1	2	3	4	5	6

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Cypher/OTP

E
24 OCT 1947
24 OCT 1947
FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

174

Mr. Kay
No. 151

D. 7.05 p.m. 23rd October, 1947.

23rd October, 1947.

R. 11.30 p.m. 23rd October, 1947.

Repeated to : FOREIGN OFFICE NO. 175

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Danish salvage vessel, hearing from Agents that Yi...
is engaged in Jewish traffic, has now refused to sail.
It appears that yesterday Agents asked salvage vessel to
tow unnamed ship from near Bandol to Calvi but later
cancelled request saying other arrangements had been made.
This may be Giovanni Maria.

Foreign Office please repeat to Rome.

[Repeated to Rome.]

MM

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Reference:

FO

371

61850

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E 9978

Cypher/OTF 25 OCT

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS.

His Majesty's Consul General
No. 132 D. 6.15 p.m. 24th October 1947
24th October 1947. R. 12.30 a.m. 25th October 1947
Repeated to Foreign Office No. 176.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Ginesta renewed their request last night to Danish salvage vessel saying that Yi.... had passed Porto Torres and was proceeding down the west coast of Sardinia under sail. Danes asked why she had not put into Porto Torres. Ginesta supposed that she was unable to do so without engine power. Danes maintained their refusal to sail and Ginesta said that they were going to telegraph to Italy for a tug to tow her to Porto Torres.

Ginesta added that unnamed ship was still at Bandel. We are investigating.

Foreign Office please repeat to Rome.

[Repeated to Rome].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

V V V

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FO 371 / 61850

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127 9978 8.4 31. 177
28 OCT 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO PARIS.

D. 2.45 p.m. 25th October 1947
R. 4.50 p.m. 25th October 1947.

25th October 1947

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 179.

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My immediately preceding telegram.

French Navy report unnamed ship was a pleasure boat in difficulties.

V V V

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References:

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E 9982/84/31

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